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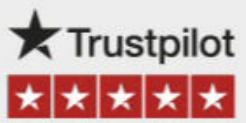
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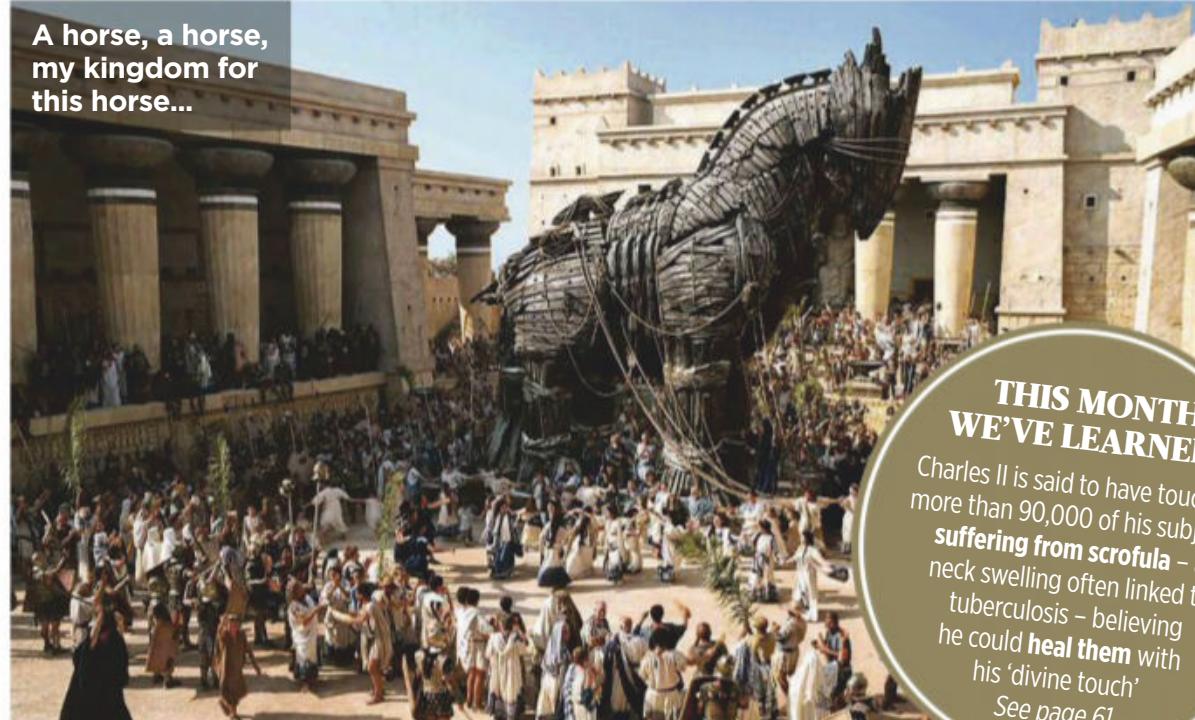
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THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

Charles II is said to have touched more than 90,000 of his subjects suffering from scrofula – a neck swelling often linked to tuberculosis – believing he could heal them with his 'divine touch'. See page 61

The stuff of legend



Few legends from ancient history continue to hold us in such thrall as that of the **fall of Troy**, the epic tale of love and loss; gods and mortals; treachery and truth. But **how much of the story is actually true?** Michael Scott weighs up the reality and fiction of probably the most famous of **Ancient Greek myths** in this month's cover feature, from page 28.

Elsewhere, we'll be telling the story of another warrior whose life is definitely fact: Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Indian queen who became one of the leading figures of the **Indian Rebellion of 1857**. Find out why she waged war on the British from page 55. We'll also be exploring the **daredevil Victorian balloonists** who risked life and limb to soar to new heights (p48) and, as a new exhibition on Tutankhamun opens in London, we'll be exploring some of the **astonishing objects from the Boy Pharaoh's tomb** (p39).

For those readers eagerly anticipating the return of the award-winning Netflix series *The Crown*, we've delved deep into the archives to bring you a selection of weird and wonderful traditions from British royal history – from Christmas weigh-ins to **chasing swans up the River Thames**. If that's not strange enough, we'll be probing the UFO panic of the early 20th century, when mysterious lights and sounds in the sky led to a secret government investigation with some intriguing outcomes!

Have a great month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

Don't miss our Christmas issue, on sale 28 November

CONTRIBUTORS



Tarek El Awady
Curator Tarek El Awady sheds light on a host of treasures from Tutankhamun's tomb, on show at London's Saatchi Gallery. Page 39



Jaishree Misra
Author Jaishree Misra introduces an Indian warrior queen who took on the mighty East India Company in the 19th century. Page 55



Michael Scott
The academic, author and broadcaster sifts fact from fiction in the Trojan War – from wooden horses to divine intervention. Page 28

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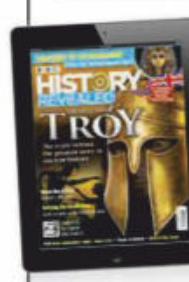
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USPS Identification Statement *BBC History Revealed* (ISSN 2632-6930) December 2019 is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in December) by Immediate Media Bristol, LTD, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST, UK. Distributed in the US by NPS Media Group, 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Prices is Pending at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *BBC History Revealed*, PO Box 2015, Langhorne, PA 19047.



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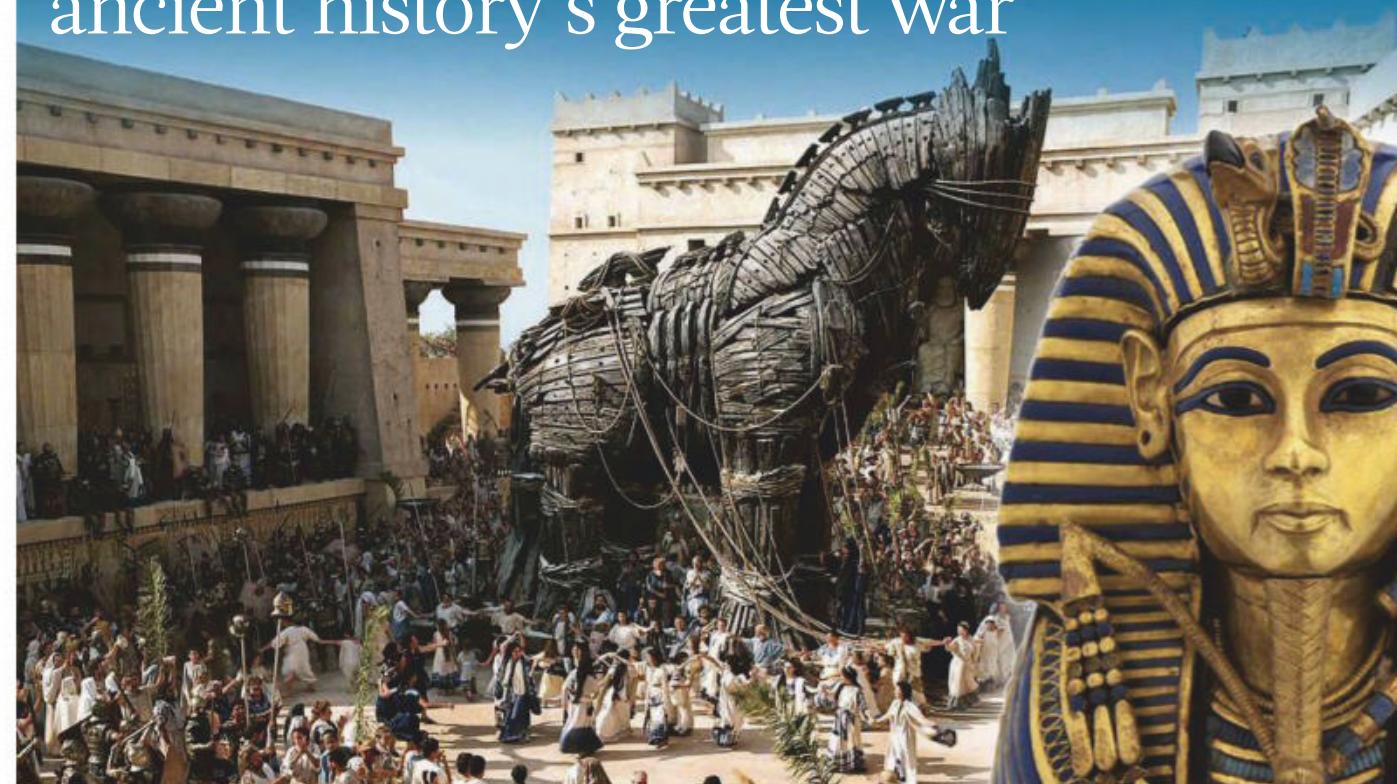
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▼ What were the Terracotta Warriors supposed to look like? Find out in this month's Q&A section



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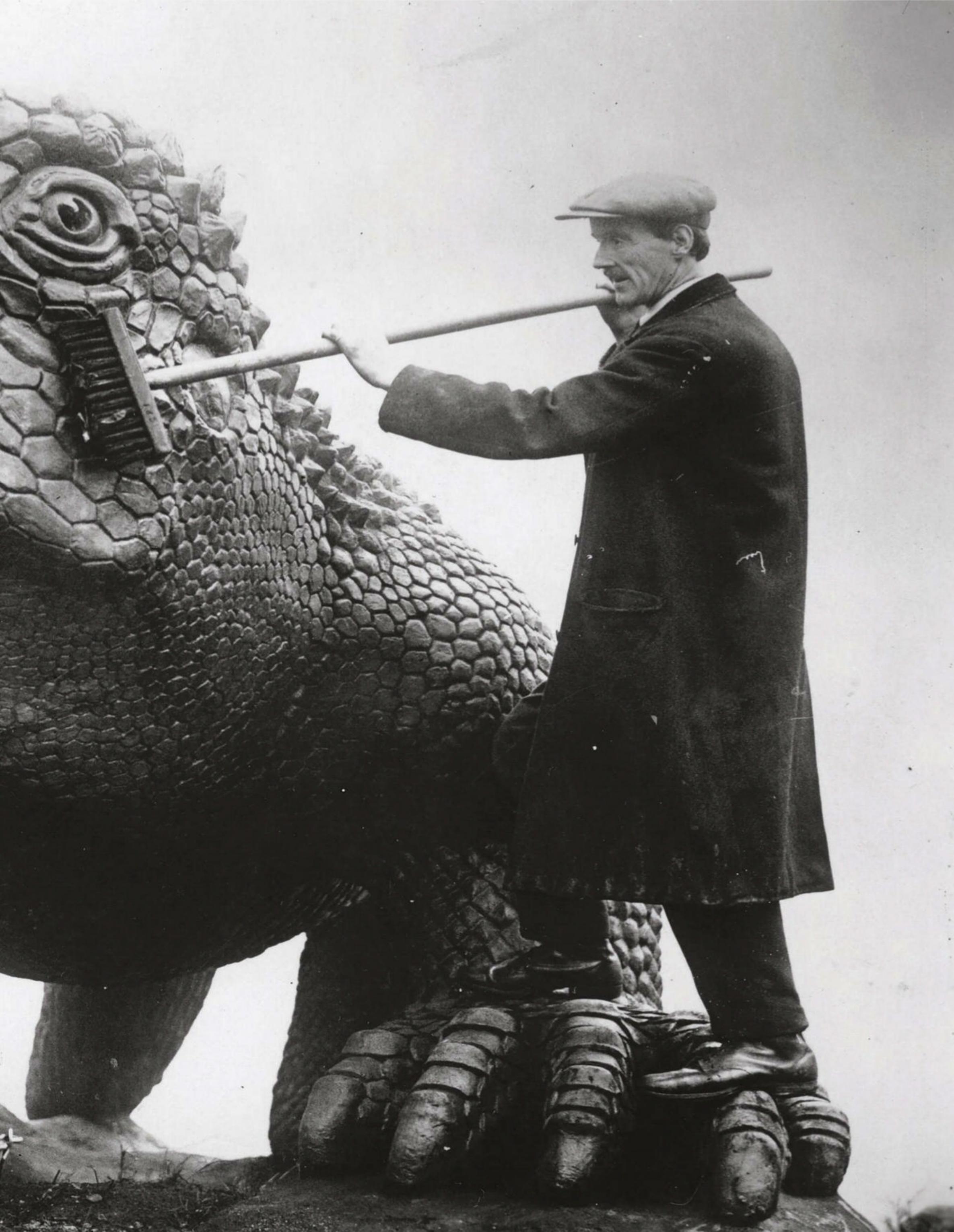
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Details on p26



1930 GARDEN GIANTS

Dinosaurs may be extinct, yet some of these magnificent creatures have roamed London for more than 150 years. Following the success of the Great Exhibition in 1851, the huge glass and iron building that housed it – nicknamed the Crystal Palace – was transferred from its home in Hyde Park to become part of a new pleasure garden in Penge Place Estate, Sydenham (later renamed Crystal Palace Park). To accompany the lakes, fountains and maze, dozens of long-dead dinos and creatures were sculpted by Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins from bricks, tiles and cement. While it turned out they were far from biologically accurate, there they remain – and sometimes need a scrub down.



1951 SAND BLAST

A mushroom cloud rises above the Yucca Flats of Nevada as part of the United States' early nuclear tests. With the Atomic Energy Commission insisting there is no danger, troops observe the detonation from six miles away, although they have to sit down so they don't get blown off their feet. Hundreds of tests took place at the Nevada Test Site during the 1950s, with the fallout having severe long-term health and environmental effects across several states.





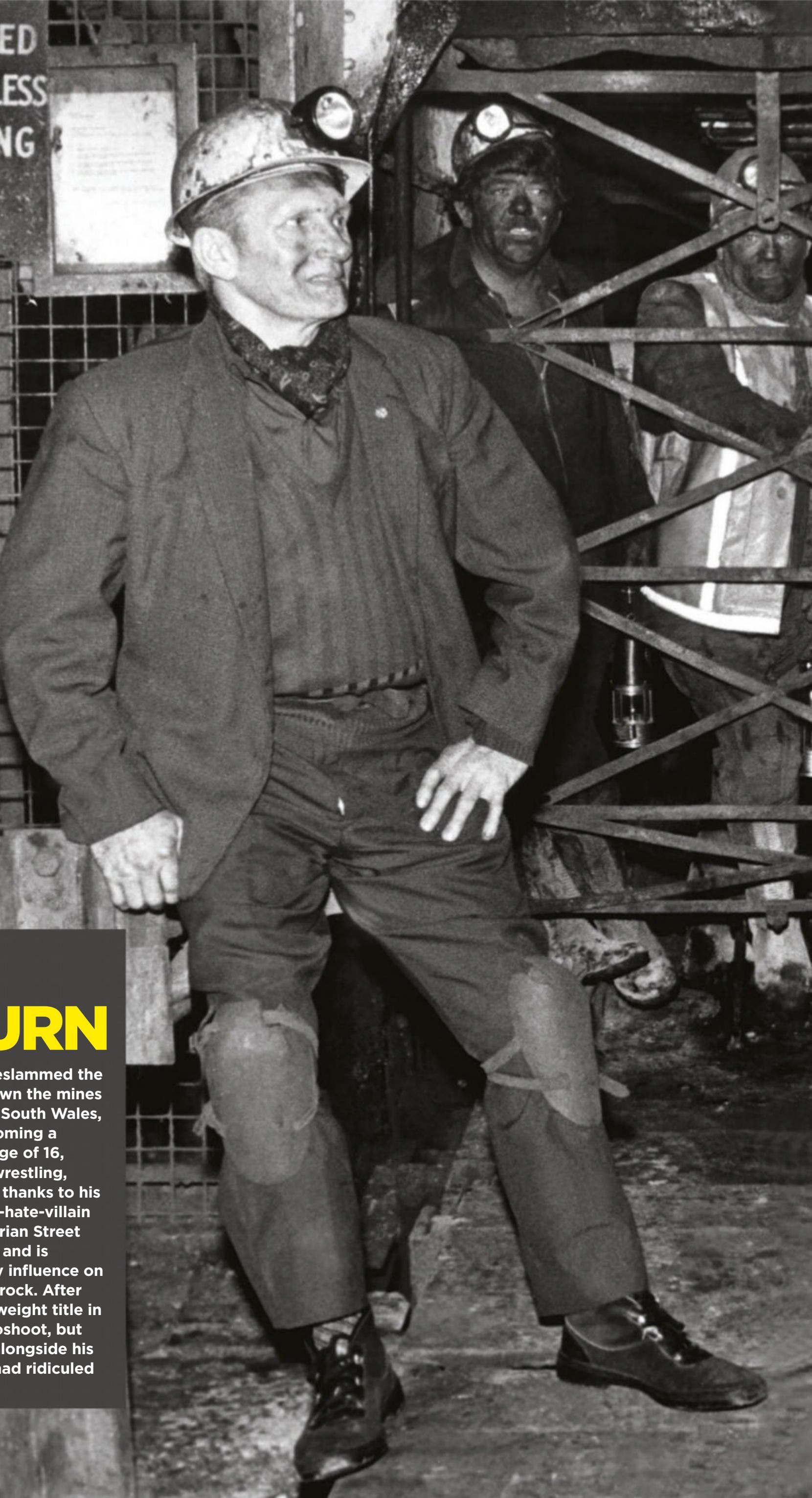
SNAPSHOTS

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CARRYING SELF RESCUING
APPARATUS.

C.G.M.

1975 HEEL TURN

Adrian Street (*far right*) chokeslammed the family tradition of working down the mines of Brynmawr, in the valleys of South Wales, to pin down his dream of becoming a professional wrestler. At the age of 16, Street left home and started wrestling, getting his break in the 1960s thanks to his flamboyantly dressed, love-to-hate-villain wrestling persona. ‘Exotic’ Adrian Street changed the face of wrestling and is considered to have been a key influence on the look and attitude of glam rock. After winning the European Middleweight title in 1973, Street agreed to a photoshoot, but only in one place: at the pits alongside his father and other miners who had ridiculed his wrestling dreams.



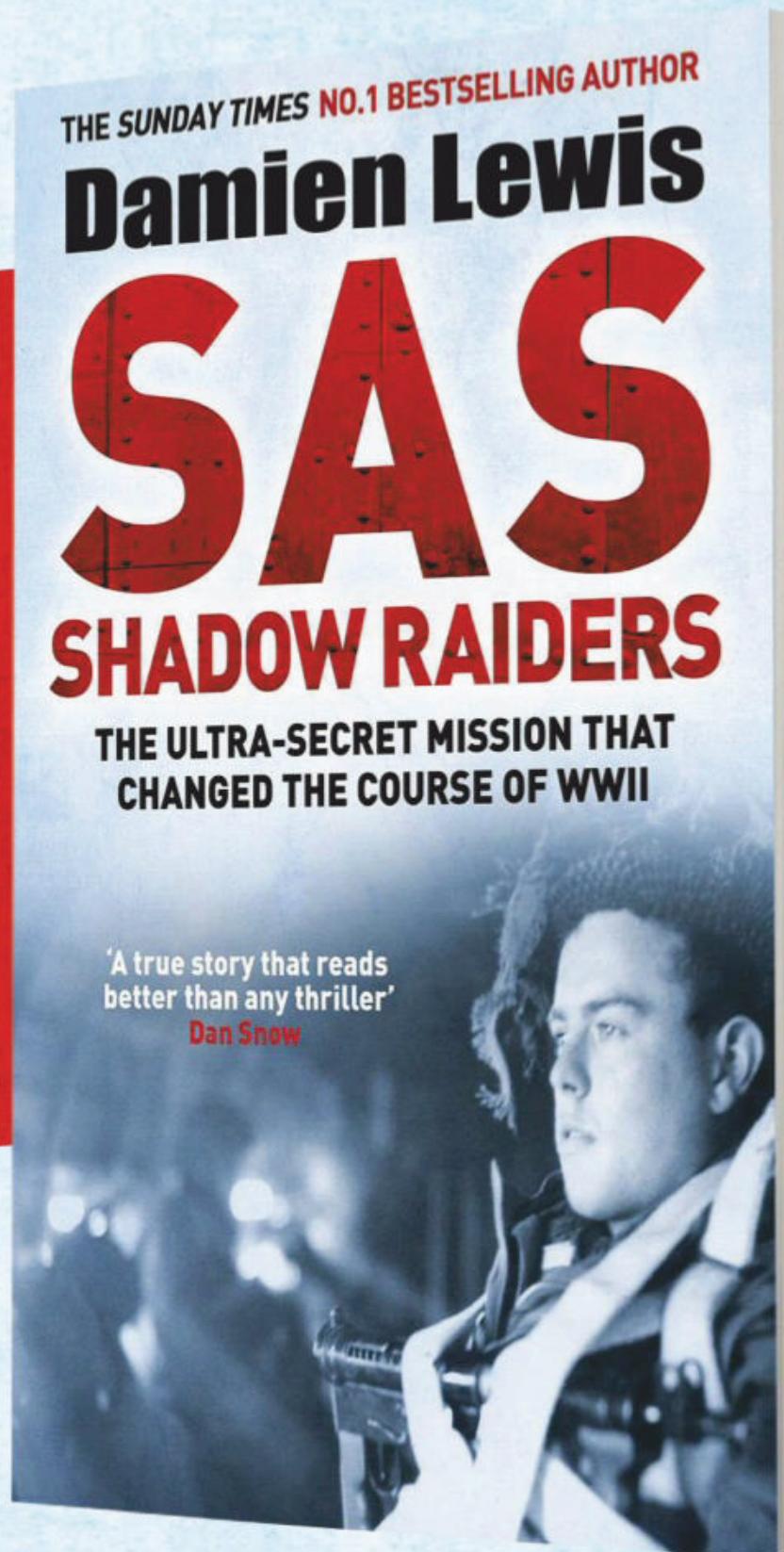


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HISTORY IN THE NEWS



ROMAN FORT DISCOVERED IN EXETER

Ancient ruins found under city's bus station

What's believed to be a Roman fort has been unearthed in Exeter during redevelopment work on the city's bus station. Archaeologists working with the construction firm made the discovery in late September, and though Roman buildings have long been known to have existed in Exeter, with many ruins left from that time, the find was unexpected.

Roman ditches were found, as well as coins and pottery, and it's believed that the site may once have been a military fort or a defended compound.

Andrew Pye from Exeter City Council told news reporters:

"This discovery of yet another new Roman 'fort' within the city does demonstrate, along with that of the fortress and baths back in the 1970s and several other new major military sites in the last decade, just how pivotal a role the Exeter area played in the first decades of the Roman conquest and subjugation of Britain, and how crucial development led archaeology has been in revealing this."

It's believed that any human remains that may have been present would have been destroyed when the bus station was first built in the 1960s.



A Roman legion base was built at the site of modern-day Exeter in cAD 55, known as Isca. Around 70 per cent of the Roman walls are still visible in the city. In the 1970s, a Roman fortress and bathhouse were uncovered beneath Cathedral Green, and there are other Roman remains across the city.

The county town of Devon has a wealth of history buried underneath its modern streets. Some medieval buildings still remain, though heavy bombing during World War II destroyed much of the city centre.

COLOUR PHOTO

Hitler holds court in Munich....p16



YOUR HISTORY

Singer-songwriter Frank Turnerp17

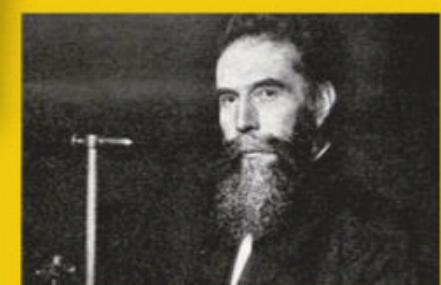
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IN THE NEWS

Witches

Residences · Detention Locations · Trial Locations · Death Locations · People Associated · Extra Visualisations · About · Blog

Places of Residence for Accused Witches With Timeline (total named accused witches: 3141)



MAP OF ACCUSED SCOTTISH WITCHES PUBLISHED

Online resource sheds light on those accused of witchcraft in the 16th and 17th centuries

A map that plots the locations of more than 3,000 accused witches in Tudor and Jacobean Scotland has been made available to the public. Produced by the University of Edinburgh, the interactive map allows users to see where those accused of witchcraft lived, were detained and where they were punished – executed, in many cases.

The University of Edinburgh's map accompanies its Scottish Witchcraft Survey database, which tells the stories of those who were persecuted during this time. Many of these 'witches' were burned at the stake or drowned. Users can move across a map of Scotland and discover the story of each 'witch' through their towns and villages.

Ewan McAndrew, Wikimedian in Residence at the University of Edinburgh – who works with

students to improve information on Wikipedia – told *The Scotsman*: "There is a very strong feeling out there that not enough has been done to inform people about the women who were accused of being witches in Scotland. There is still this Halloween concept surrounding them. The tragedy is that Scotland had five times the number of executions of women. The idea of being able to plot these on a map really brings it home."

During the 16th and 17th centuries, more than 4,000 women (and some men) were accused of witchcraft in Scotland, a figure that corresponds with witch trials across Europe. James VI of Scotland (and later James I of England), was paranoid about witches and instigated hunts across the country. The map is available to view at witches.is.ed.ac.uk.

PREHISTORIC BABIES DRANK MILK FROM BOTTLES

It turns out that giving babies milk in bottles is not such a modern practice after all. Remnants of animal fats have been discovered in Bronze and Iron Age clay vessels from across Europe, leading archaeologists to surmise that prehistoric European parents may have used bottles to feed their babies animal milk.

The source of the milk is uncertain, but goat or cow is suspected. It's believed that humans began introducing dairy into their diets around 6,000 years ago, but the diet of ancient infants had been, until now, less clear.

£3,700

The amount paid at auction for a pair of knickers owned by Eva Braun, wife of Adolf Hitler. The pink silk pants – from a private World War II collection – were bought by an anonymous UK buyer who had previously bought a nightgown that belonged to Braun.



CHERNOBYL'S REACTOR FOUR CONTROL ROOM OPENS TO TOURISTS

Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine has opened the control room of Reactor 4 – the nerve centre of the worst nuclear disaster in history – to tourists for the first time. On 26 April 1986, a safety test was carried out that caused the nuclear reactor core to overheat, exposing thousands of people to high levels of radiation.

A recent HBO dramatisation of the disaster has seen interest and tourism in Chernobyl skyrocket, but a 1,000-square-mile exclusion zone around the plant prevents almost everyone from living in the area, while tourist visits are restricted to designated tours. A steel and concrete sarcophagus now encases the reactor, within which it's estimated that 200 tonnes of radioactive fuel remains.



The control room is open, but only for five minutes – such are the levels of radiation

UK MUSEUM RETURNS ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS

Manchester Museum has become the first UK museum to repatriate items from its collection to Aboriginal Australian communities. Some 43 sacred objects have been returned to the Aranda people of Central Australia, the Gangalidda Garawa peoples' of northwest Queensland, the Nyamal people of the Pilbara and the Yawuru people of Broome. These items have been part of the museum's collection since the 1920s. Manchester Museum has been active in returning ancestral remains to their countries of origin in recent years, although this is their first return to Australia.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

AQUA ABLUTIONS

Hand washing could be a fancy occasion in the Middle Ages

Washing your hands in the medieval period didn't need to be a chore when you used an aquamanile. This 33cm-high copper example, found in England and dating to the late 13th century, was filled with water via the knight's head and poured out through a spout in the horse's forehead. Aquamaniles were used for washing hands before a meal, or by a priest during the Christian rite of the Eucharist. They could be made in a variety of shapes including dragons, unicorns or lions.



© THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

EARLIEST PHOTOS OF UNTOUCHED AMAZON SOLD AT AUCTION

Photographer's early journey to Brazil captured on camera

The first known images of the Upper Amazon in Brazil have been sold at auction. Albert Frisch, a German pioneer of anthropological photography, travelled to Brazil in the 1860s to record the indigenous population, and took what are believed to be the first images of the area.

As well as the natural, untouched landscape, Frisch also captured images of the Amazon's indigenous tribes, including the Ticuna, Miranha and Caixana.

Frisch covered more than 1,000 miles in five months, capturing images of the undisturbed rainforest, those who lived there and creatures such as crocodiles. He carried with him a portable laboratory to develop his photos. The collection, which sold at Sotheby's for more than \$80,000, comprised 98 prints, which were first published in 1869. Frisch had a short-lived photography career, but many of his photos still exist in collections across the world.

Frisch's photos included this portrait of a family of Bolivian 'boatmen' in Brazil



COURTESY SOTHEBY'S

HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life

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YOUR HISTORY

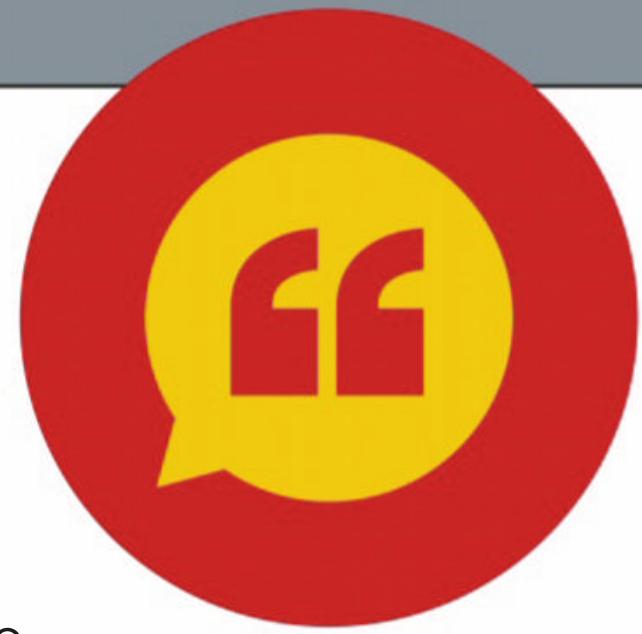
Frank Turner

The punk and folk singer-songwriter tells us about who he'd want at a party and how he hoped his new album would give a song to some of history's unsung heroines



Frank Turner's eighth album, *No Man's Land*, is dedicated to 13 women whose lives he feels deserve more recognition

BBC Visit Frank Turner's page on the BBC Music website. bbc.in/2lSfhu



Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

There are some obvious answers to this question, but the idea raises some interesting questions about causality. I'm not sure that stopping the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 would have completely averted the European march to war. Perhaps if Hitler had got into the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna in 1907 or 1908, the 20th century would have turned out differently.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

I'd pick Benjamin Franklin. As well as being a towering historical figure, a truly liberal intellect and a genius of invention, he comes across in his own writing as being a lot of fun. I think we would have had a great night out on the town in 18th-century Philadelphia. If I can continue to rig the space-time continuum, I might throw an invitation to Mae West for that party as well.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

I've been lucky enough to visit some amazing places on my travels on tour over the years, but I have yet to visit South America. I'd love to go to Machu Picchu someday. I'm fascinated by pre-Columbian civilisation in general – it's a necessary correction to overly eurocentric views of history.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

I've just released a whole album of songs – *No Man's Land* – about women from the historical record who I think could do with being sung about more than they are. If I had to pick one from the cast I'd go with Huda Sha'arawi, an Egyptian feminist in the early 20th century who made huge strides forward for women's rights in the Middle East. A devout Muslim, Sha'arawi also worked out a coherent liberation theology of her own from her religion. I think that's fascinating and salutary; we could all do with learning more from her actions and her writings.



Huda Sha'arawi (pictured in 1933 with economist Talaat Harb) was a pioneering Egyptian feminist

“Benjamin Franklin and I would have had a great night out in 18th-century Philadelphia”

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

S U P P L E M E N T.

No. 488.—VOL. XVIII.]

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1851.

[TWO NUMBERS, 1s. { WITH LARGE PRINT.
GRATIS.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

THE journals which report the proceedings at the Crystal Palace have, perhaps, a difficult task to convey to the most distant parts of the world a full, true, and particular account of the wonders of art and industry exhibited within; but they have no difficulty in reporting its success. The Exhibition continues to grow in favour. Upon that point there can be no mistake. As its popularity increases, the views of its founders and of the more enlightened portions of the public, as to its future usefulness, extend. Day by day the circle widens. The money pours in, at the rate of nearly £20,000 per week; so that the Executive Committee, instead of being in any difficulty for the ways and means of making themselves straight with the world, will shortly be in possession of a very handsome surplus. We notice with pleasure, among the first developments of plans which have suggested themselves, that a series of lectures within the Building have been announced. Professor Coperer will lecture on the section of machinery; Professor Ansted will treat of minerals and raw produce; and Mr. O'Brien, who has taken charge of the philosophical instruments, will lecture on that department. Arrangements will doubtless be made at a more advanced period of the season, to enable the working men of the provinces not only to see these wonders of human ingenuity, but to hear the lectures of those competent teachers on the application of the arts to the service of humanity. Furthermore, we expect that colleges and schools will be enabled to give their students a similar advantage. In fact, the manifold uses of the Exhibition in a national point of view are only beginning to be discovered; so that the more the subject is considered, the greater and more beneficial appear the purposes to which it may be directed. Nationally and internationally, it is equally interesting. What the ultimate result may be, we will not presume even to hint; but the present results must be allowed to be in the highest degree gratifying both to the clear-sighted energy and perseverance in a good object of those who founded the Exhibition, and to the national character.

In resuming our account of the several sections, the first notice is due to the productions of our French neighbours.

The French department is at length beginning to make a display worthy of the nation which assumes, not without reason, to set an example of taste in all manufactures susceptible of artistic treatment.

A great deal still remains to be done. The galleries are only half furnished, and the hammer and saw are still at work in the bays leading from the grand avenue; but enough has been arranged to attract and rivet the attention of crowds who had begun to fear that France had retired from the contest.

The fact is, that the French, who have been accustomed to teach all the cities of Europe how to get up exhibitions of industry, accepted our invitation without being prepared either for our punctuality or powers of display. They expected to find a convenient, even a magnificent building, filled with solid and useful articles of commerce, fine machinery, strong calico, plenty of polished needles, locks, bars, and bolts; but, as regarded the ornamentation of the Palace, that task they fully believed was reserved for them; and many of the Parisian manufacturers calculated, that as the Exhibition could have neither beauty nor interest without the beautiful contributions from the workshops of Paris, if they were not ready for England, why England must wait for them. The result has been the exact opposite of their expectations. The 1st of May presented a long series of beautiful, combined with useful, manufactures, and would have been just as successful if a temporary curtain had been drawn over the space assigned to France; yet now that the French manufactures are coming out in great force, presenting each day some new attraction, we receive it with all the satisfaction of an unexpected discovery—we feel that we have hit upon a new vein of pleasure, when we thought ourselves already overhangingly rich.

On turning toward the French department, after passing the exquisite carvings in white and red wood exhibited by Switzerland, our attention is arrested by a case containing the treasures of the Queen of Spain's Jewellery. They amply justify the reputation that Parisian artists in precious stones have so long enjoyed. The leading objects are a suite of diamonds and pearls, arranged with green enamel into a representation of acorns and oak-leaves. The coronal for a head ornament seems to us more beautiful, more a work of true art, than anything in the gorgeous

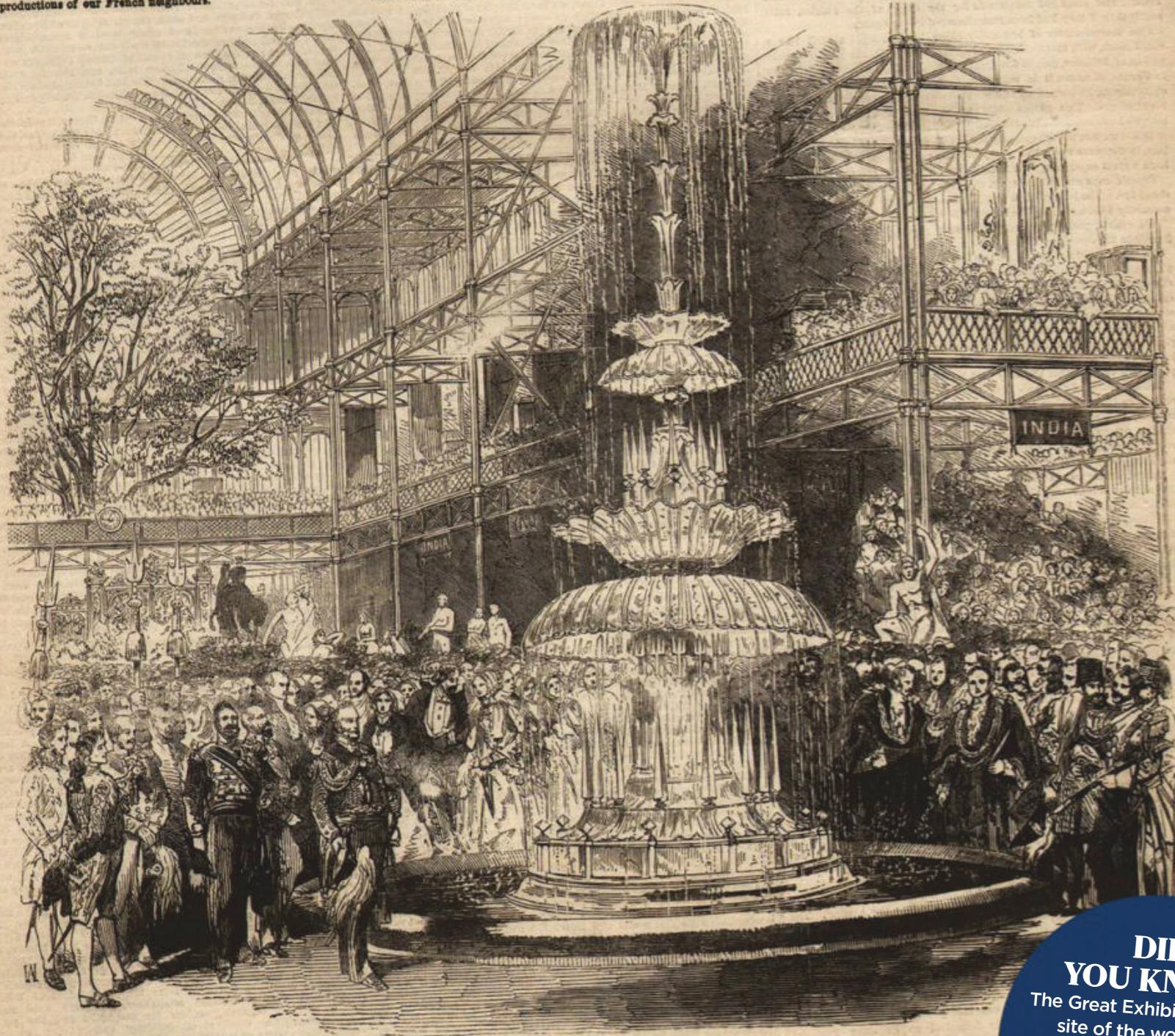
display in the British jewellery. Next to these stand the crowns, sceptre, state-sword, and other Royal insignia belonging to the gentlemen who manufactured the coronation jewels for the Emperor of Hayti.

What triumph of art manufacture the French may next unpack, it is impossible to guess; but, at present, the crowning glory of the French collection is the case of Froment-Meurice. Among a crowd of exquisitely beautiful articles is a toilet-table (presented to the Duchess of Parma) of buhl, silver, and enamel, supported by silver figures, with a looking-glass surrounded by a frame of enamels of the arms of the two families. Every part of this extraordinary piece of furniture is a marvel of carving, engraving, and sculpture. With the toilet-table are costly sacramental vessels, jewel-boxes, flowers in precious stones, hunting swords, and such a series of exquisite and fantastic designs worked out in precious metals as we never remember to have seen collected together as the property of one person before. The times of Benvenuto Cellini seem revived in this display. On a future occasion we shall give illustrations and detailed descriptions.

French jewellery is all stamped with a mark which denotes to those initiated the exact value of the gold employed. There is a first-class, second-class, and third-class stamp, which the manufacturers are obliged to obtain before offering their wares for sale. The advantage to the manufacturers of first-class articles is great. They are secure against the competition of those who could imitate their latest productions in an inferior kind of gold.

We have no such regulation. Pure gold, which is seldom used for ordinary jewellery, bears the Hall-mark; but in what is commonly called "jeweller's gold," there is between one maker and another a difference of value, without any perceptible difference in appearance, equal to at least fifty per cent. No doubt, the French regulation is a great protection and encouragement to the manufacturer of good articles in tasteful shapes; but our manufacturers of cheap jewellery at Birmingham and elsewhere carry on their operations on so large and so rapid a scale, that it would be impossible to introduce such a restriction without seriously impeding their trade.

The imitation jewellery displayed by the French in the South Bay is



1.—THE TRANSEPT OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE ON THE 1ST OF MAY.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Great Exhibition was the site of the world's first modern pay toilets. At one pence per use, the expression "to spend a penny" is believed to have originated here.

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

THE GREAT EXHIBITION IS A ROARING SUCCESS

A giant crystal palace houses all of the world under one roof

May 1851 saw London's Hyde Park transformed into a spectacular exhibition that showcased the best of British industry, world innovation and craftsmanship.

Inventor and civil servant Henry Cole – a member of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce – joined keen moderniser Prince Albert as the brains behind the exhibition. Albert had become a patron for the society a few years previously, and together he and Cole imagined a show for the whole world to enjoy, inspired (in part) by industrial and design exhibitions that had been taking place in France since the French Revolution.

After many ideas were deliberated about where to hold the exhibition, Joseph Paxton, gardener and architect for the Duke of Devonshire, came up with a purpose-built glasshouse. At 563 metres long, 124 metres wide and 33 metres high, it was three times the size of St Paul's Cathedral and even incorporated some of Hyde Park's trees inside. This massive glasshouse – the largest in the world – only took nine months to construct.

The exhibition was a shining example of the industry and progression of the Victorian era and housed more than 100,000 objects, including a stuffed elephant and the Koh-i-Noor – one of the largest diamonds in the world, which had recently become part of the British Crown Jewels. Inventors brought along their new ideas and countries around the globe sent their finest craftsman with tapestries, jewellery and ceramics. The French display – which this newspaper article includes an account of – was the largest and most impressive, with beautiful silks and porcelain on display.

Famous visitors to the Great Exhibition included Queen Victoria – who had officially opened it on 1 May 1851 and was a frequent

visitor – Charles Darwin and Charlotte Brontë, who wrote that it was: "A wonderful place – vast, strange, new and impossible to describe."

There was so much hype surrounding the exhibition that people flocked to see it from all around the world – six million visitors saw the exhibits between May and October 1851, when the exhibition closed. Recent developments in Britain's railways meant that London was more accessible than ever before by train, and many people from rural communities were able to visit London for the first time, with dedicated trains put on for them. Ticket prices decreased as the exhibition went on, allowing people from all classes and spheres of society the opportunity to view it. One 84-year-old woman made the journey on foot from Penzance in west Cornwall; her journey took a grand total of five weeks.

The exhibition was such a success that it inspired World Fairs across the globe, which are still continuing in a modern format today – the most recent, Expo 2017, in Kazakhstan, was based around the theme of a sustainable Earth. The profits from the Great Exhibition funded the construction of the Victoria and Albert Museum and Science Museum in London. ◎

The Great Exhibition was a defining episode in Albert's life and the setting for the season 3 finale of ITV's *Victoria*



The Exhibition's west wing was dedicated to British might and majesty; this, the east wing, was the showcase for the wonders of the wider world

THIS MONTH IN... 1895

Anniversaries that have made history

THE WORLD SEES AN X-RAY IMAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Röntgen's discovery brings the human skeleton to life

In November 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen made an amazing yet accidental breakthrough. He discovered a new form of radiation – which allowed certain objects to appear transparent on photographic plates – and went on to produce the world's first X-ray image.

Röntgen's scientific success was by no means a foregone conclusion. Born in 1845 in Rhenish Prussia, Röntgen didn't complete his school education – he was expelled after being wrongly accused of drawing an unflattering caricature of a teacher. Lacking qualifications, he struggled to find opportunities for further study, but eventually obtained a place at the Federal Polytechnic Institute at Zurich reading mechanical engineering – he went on to obtain a PhD at the neighbouring University of Zurich in 1869, with his thesis on the study of gases. His enthusiasm and talent caught the attention of professors, and he was invited by physicist August Kundt to be his assistant. By 1895, when he made his breakthrough, Röntgen was a professor of physics at the University of Würzburg in Bavaria.

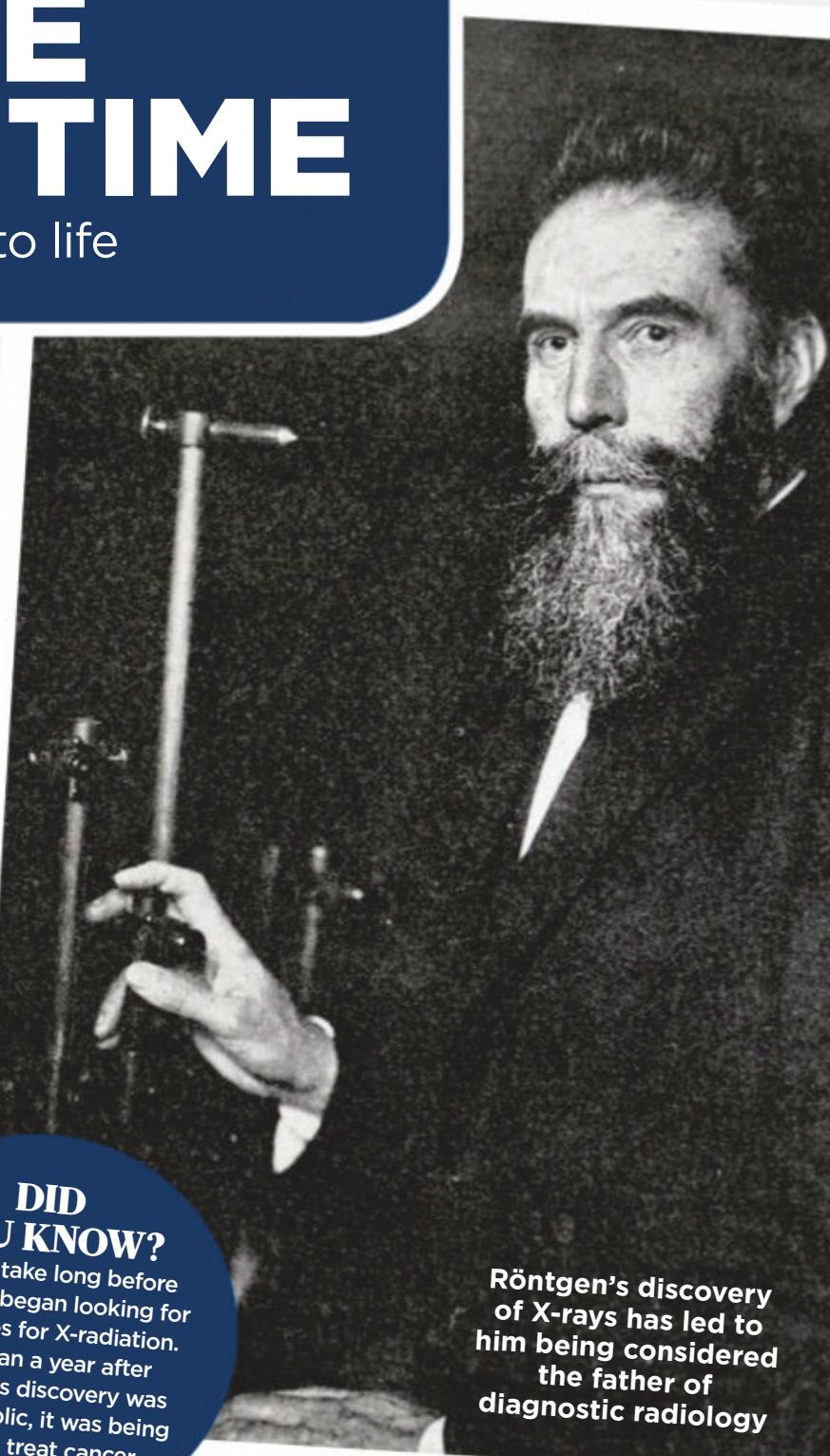
Röntgen wasn't specifically looking for a new form of radiation but had been experimenting with electrical rays when he made the discovery. During his experiment, carried out in a pitch-black laboratory, Röntgen noticed that photographic plates placed in the path of the rays would glow fluorescent. Further examination revealed that placing objects of different thicknesses in the rays would reveal varying degrees of transparency on the photographic plate.

Keen to find out if the rays could pass through human flesh and bone, Röntgen asked his wife, Anna, to place her hand in

front of them. The experiment successfully captured a now famous image – his wife's skeletal hand with her wedding ring visible. Röntgen published his findings on 28 December 1895 and he, together with his wife's hand, became instant celebrities. So exciting was this new form of 'photography' that people were soon having X-rays taken in their own homes and they became a common attraction in Victorian fairs.

Other scientists had experimented with X-radiation as early as 1785, but it was Röntgen who first realised and utilised the potential of the rays. He called the rays 'X' due to their unknown nature and refused to take out patents on the new technology, to allow everyone to benefit freely from it.

Within six months of Röntgen's discovery, X-ray machines were being installed in hospitals, allowing doctors to see inside the human body for the first time without invasive and risky surgery – previously, educated guesswork would have been used to diagnose broken bones and fractures – and it revolutionised treatment during the Second Boer War and World



DID YOU KNOW?

It didn't take long before scientists began looking for other uses for X-radiation. Less than a year after Röntgen's discovery was made public, it was being used to treat cancer.

Röntgen's discovery of X-rays has led to him being considered the father of diagnostic radiology

War I. In 1901, Röntgen received the first Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery and the measurement of exposure to X-rays was named after him. ☀

BBC WORLD SERVICE Wilhelm Röntgen's experiments with X-rays are discussed on an episode of *Experiments That Changed the World* on the BBC World Service. www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03cgl87

Hand mit Ringen



The first X-rays bear little resemblance to the cleaner, ethereal blue scans we're more familiar with today, but their influence on medicine was transformative all the same

**“I have seen
my death!”**

Anna Bertha Röntgen's reaction on
seeing her hand as an X-ray



YEAR IN FOCUS 1768

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past



Less than 30 years after first being described, the sea cow becomes the first marine mammal to be made extinct thanks to humans. Steller's sea cow (*Hydrodamalis gigas*) was a large aquatic mammal that lived in the Northern Pacific Ocean – its closest living relations are dugongs and manatees.

Steller's sea cow was first formally described in

1741 but was hunted into extinction by fur traders. The popularity of sea otter fur boomed in the 18th century and its habitats were the same as the sea cow, which hunters prized for meat. The last Steller's sea cow was recorded as being killed in 1768, with scientists still trying to uncover more about this extinct creature to this day.



DURING OCT

COLONIAL TENSIONS RISE IN BOSTON

Two regiments of the British army are despatched to Boston, Massachusetts, to suppress unrest which had sprung up against a series of laws – the Townshend Acts – introduced in 1767 to assert British authority over the American colonies. Many resisted these new rules (which included greater taxes, new shipping regulations, and forbidding the New York Assembly from passing new bills until they had agreed to pay for food and housing for British troops) and acts of aggression against British enforcement agents became commonplace. Campaigning began against ‘taxation without representation’, the later slogan of the American Revolutionaries. The increased military presence only inflamed matters – in 1770, several people were shot (and five killed) by British soldiers during what became known as the Boston Massacre; within five years that angst would become open warfare.

APR
04

THE MODERN CIRCUS IS BORN

On 4 April 1768, Easter Monday, Philip Astley's first show debuts, wowing the audience with equestrian tricks in London. A brilliant cavalry horseman, Astley decided to utilise his skills and opened up a riding school in Lambeth. Musicians, acrobats and clowns were soon added to the line-up. Astley's circus became an international success and he was even invited to perform for King Louis XV at Versailles in 1772. Originally 62ft in diameter, Astley finally settled on a 42ft circus ring for his show, which is still the universal standard today. Astley's Amphitheatre changed hands many times after his death, before being demolished in 1893.



ALSO IN 1768...

10 MAY

People protesting against radical MP John Wilkes' imprisonment are fired upon at St George's Fields, Southwark.

25 AUGUST

Captain James Cook sets sail on his first voyage to the South Pacific on board HMS *Endeavour*.

25 SEPTEMBER

The Russo-Turkish War of 1768-74 erupts after Turkey demands that Catherine the Great of Russia adheres to a 1711 treaty (which ended an earlier war between them) that forbade Russia from interfering in Polish affairs.

10 DECEMBER

A group of artists present a petition to George III asking to “establish a society for promoting the Arts of Design”. The King agrees and the Royal Academy of Arts is born.

UNKNOWN

Two Anglo-Irish women, known as the Ladies of Llangollen, meet for the first time and swiftly strike up a relationship. They later cause a scandal amongst British society when they elope and set up home together in Wales.

DEC
15

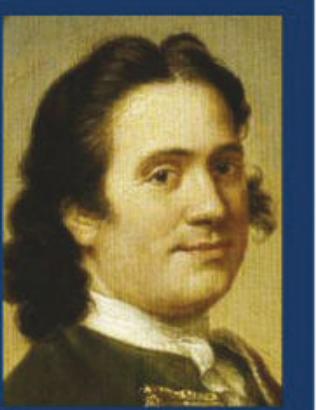
A KINGLY CRISIS ENGULFS SWEDEN

On 15 December, King Adolf Frederick of Sweden throws his country into a political crisis by refusing to sign state documents, as a protest against his limited powers. Absolute monarchy had ended in 1719 under Queen Ulrika Eleonora, thanks to the efforts of parliament, but Adolf Frederick hoped his disruption would bring about a new Riksdag – Sweden's national legislature – to increase his powers. He was placated with promises of new reforms just five days later.



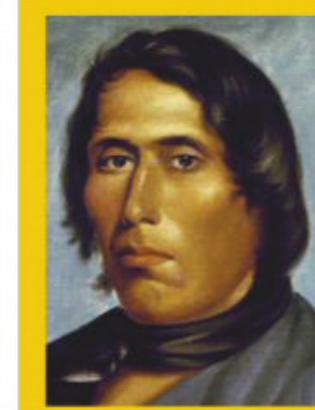
DIED: 19 APRIL CANALETTO

Born in 1697, Giovanni Antonio Canal, better known as Canaletto, was a Venetian artist known for his city view paintings. He moved to England in 1746, and when the quality of his work dropped he had to publicly refute claims that someone else was behind them. He spent his final years in Venice.



BORN: IN MARCH TECUMSEH

Born in present-day Ohio into a world filled with conflict, Tecumseh was a chief of the Shawnee tribe. He directed Native American resistance to white rule and joined Britain against the Americans in the War of 1812. His death, in 1813, saw a decline in Native American resistance in the Ohio River Valley area.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

ESCAPE FROM BERLIN

Thirty years on from the fall of the Berlin Wall, we discover some of the ways East Berliners conquered the infamous 'Death Strip'

On 9 November 1989, thousands of East Germans crossed into the West unimpeded for the first time in almost 30 years. No longer did they have to worry about being shot in the back or savaged by hounds as they crept like thieves in the night. From that day on, they could walk in the light of the blazing Sun.

The Berlin Wall – splitting Soviet-controlled East Berlin from the British, American and French sectors – was the Iron Curtain made flesh, and would soon be seen as a symbol of the Cold War at large. It was sprung on Berliners overnight; on

13 August 1961, the city's residents awoke to find the East cut off by a simple barbed wire fence. Construction of concrete barricades began in the days after, and as those days turned to months and years, the scale of the Berlin Wall's menace bloomed.

By 1975, it was not so much a wall as a gauntlet, a forbidden zone a minimum of 27 metres wide – 100 metres at its greatest extent – littered with pitfalls and hazards. Yet, despite the extreme peril, around 5,000 people braved the 'Death Strip' and attempted to escape from East to West.

The Berlin Wall did not simply run through the centre of the city – it enveloped West Berlin, an enclave within the entirely communist German Democratic Republic, the official name for East Germany



Path of the Berlin Wall

ILLUSTRATION: EDWARD CROOKS/WWW.EDWARDCROOKS.CO.UK

43.1km

Total length of the wall within Berlin

45,000

Concrete segments in the final barrier alone

100m

Max width of the Death Strip



TUNNEL VISIONS

By far the most popular method of attempted escape, an estimated 75 tunnels were dug beneath the Berlin Wall

SENIOR CITIZENS' TUNNEL | MAY 1962

A dozen mostly elderly citizens escaped after spending 16 days digging a 32-metre tunnel from a chicken coop. The tunnel was a towering six feet tall inside – so the escapees could leave 'unbowed'.



SIX OF THE BERLIN WALL'S OTHER GREATEST ESCAPES

ON A TIGHTROPE

1963

Acrobat Horst Klein inched his way to liberty dangling from a high-tension cable that spanned the border. He fell, breaking both his arms, but he landed in the West – so it kind of worked out.



HOT AIR BALLOON

Sep 1979

The Strelczyk and Wetzel families fashioned a hot air balloon from bed-sheets and, powered by a propane-cylinder engine, drifted to freedom at 8,000 feet.

USING A TRAIN AS A BATTERING RAM

Dec 1961

Instead of slowing down as he approached the border, engineer Harry Deterling sped up his passenger train and ploughed through the Wall. Twenty-five people escaped into West Berlin, but seven – brought along for the ride – returned to the East.



AIR MATTRESS

1975

Ingo Bethke, an East German guard, crossed the River Elbe north of Berlin by using an inflatable mattress as a makeshift raft.



MAKESHIFT ZIP LINE

Mar 1983

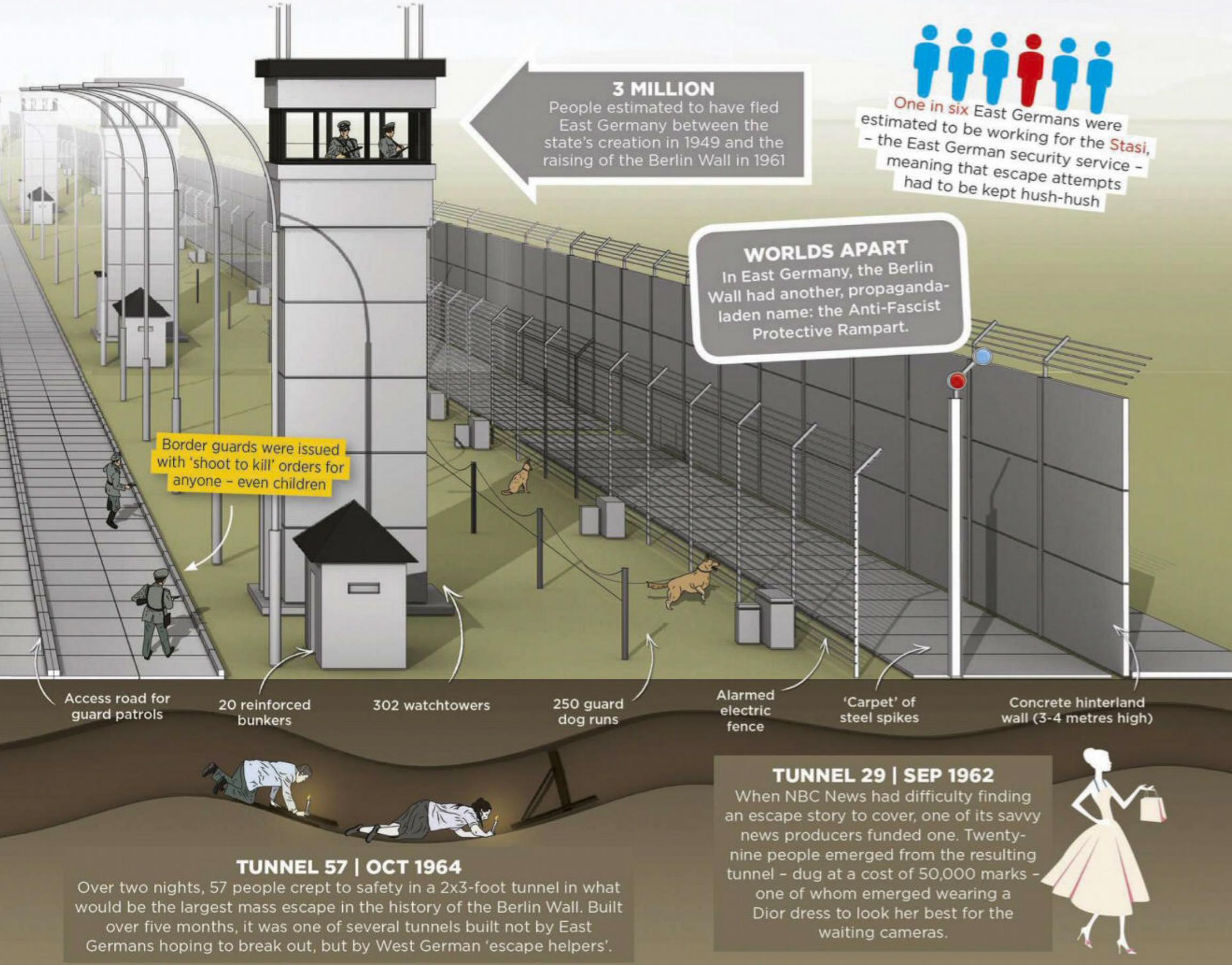
Starting with fishing line shot into the West on an arrow, Michael Becker and Holger Bethke (Ingo's brother) created a zip-line on which they effortlessly sailed into the West.



ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT

May 1989

Unwilling to leave a third sibling behind, Ingo and Holger Bethke bought – then learned to fly – an ultralight aircraft to rescue their brother Egbert.



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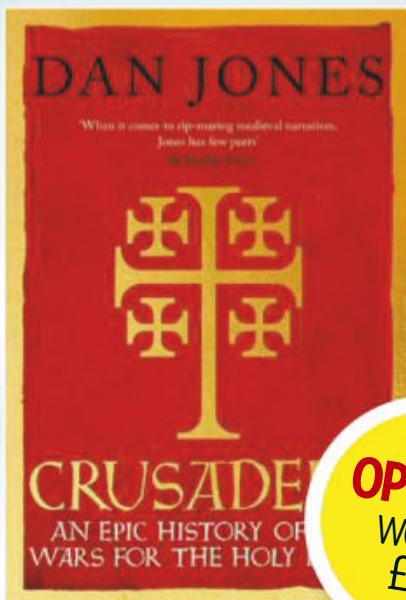
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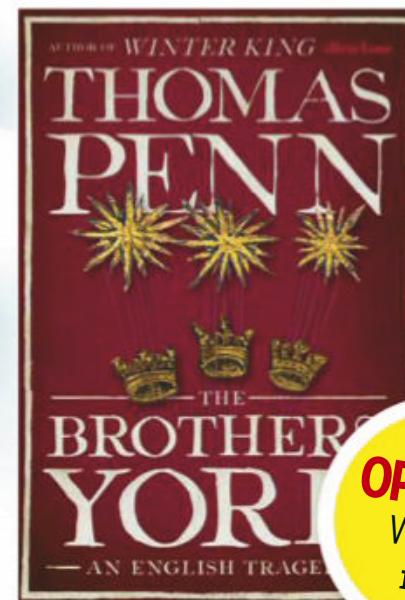


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By Dan Jones

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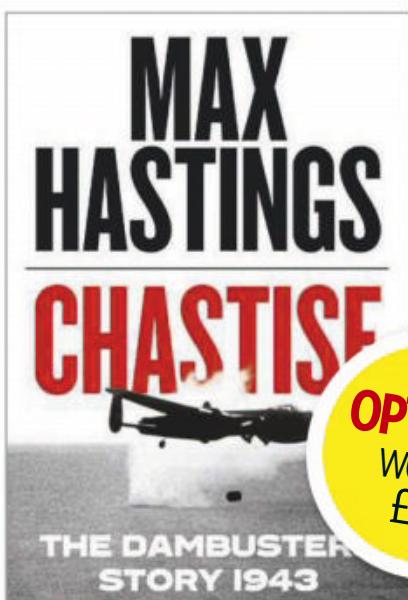


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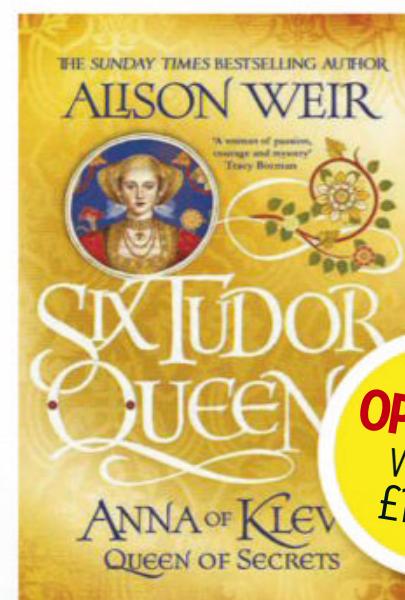


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THE LEGEND OF TROY

Mighty warriors, the world's most beautiful woman, divine intervention and a giant wooden horse – the Trojan War is one of ancient history's greatest stories but, asks **Michael Scott**, how much of the legend is actually true?





For warriors like Achilles, Hector, Ajax and Odysseus, the Trojan War was their way of achieving immortal glory



MICHAEL SCOTT
is professor of classics and ancient history at the University of Warwick, president of the largest regional branch of the Classical Association, and director and trustee of Classics for All. As well as being an author, he has presented a number of programmes for BBC television and radio, including *Ancient Invisible Cities* for BBC Two. Follow him on Twitter: @profmcscott

Achilles bound together the heels of the man he had just slain in single combat – Hector, hero of the Trojans – and tied the lifeless body to his chariot. He climbed aboard and encouraged his horses to move, dragging his fallen foe around and around the walls of Troy so that all inside could see the fate that had befallen their bravest and noblest of protectors. Following that humiliation, Achilles rode back to the Greek camp, where, for the next 12 days, he further desecrated Hector's body by refusing the proper burial rituals. It required the intervention of the gods before Achilles returned Hector to his father for a funeral.

The account is one of the most chilling – not only for the death of a warrior in combat, but the disrespect shown to his body – in the text of Homer's *Iliad*, an epic poem about the Greeks' fateful attempts to besiege the city of Troy. The scene has everything that, for Ancient Greeks and Trojans, was both best and worst about war. It offered Achilles the opportunity for eternal glory by defeating Troy's greatest warrior, while showing how war could lead to humanity putting aside its most basic principles and risk becoming something less than human. The gods themselves are needed to remind Achilles of this.

Homer's *Iliad* is a tale of bloodshed, conquest, struggle, loss, fate, heroism and glory, centred within the Greeks' legendary ten-year campaign. It was a war waged supposedly because of one action: the Trojan prince Paris stealing away Helen, the most beautiful woman

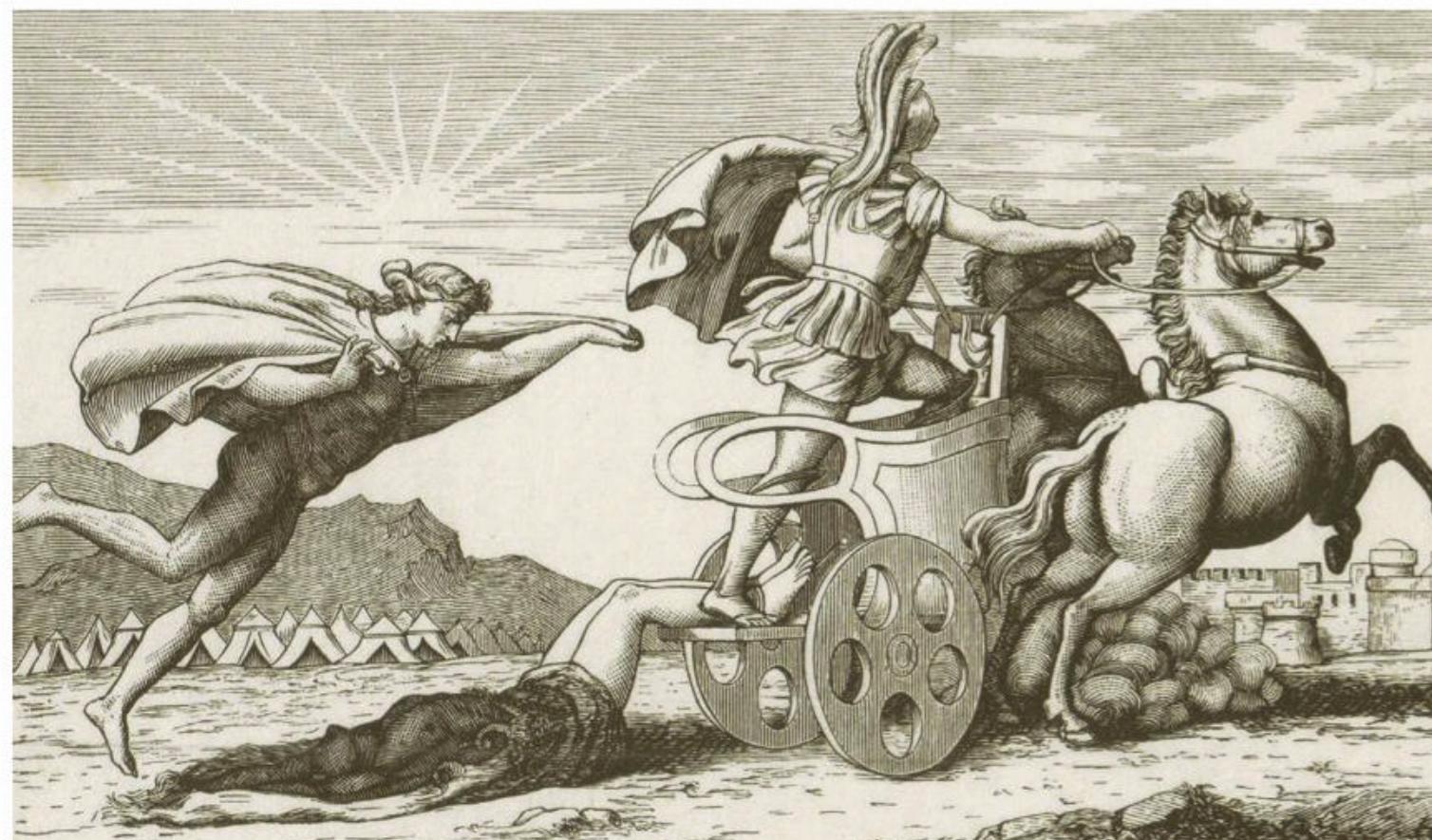
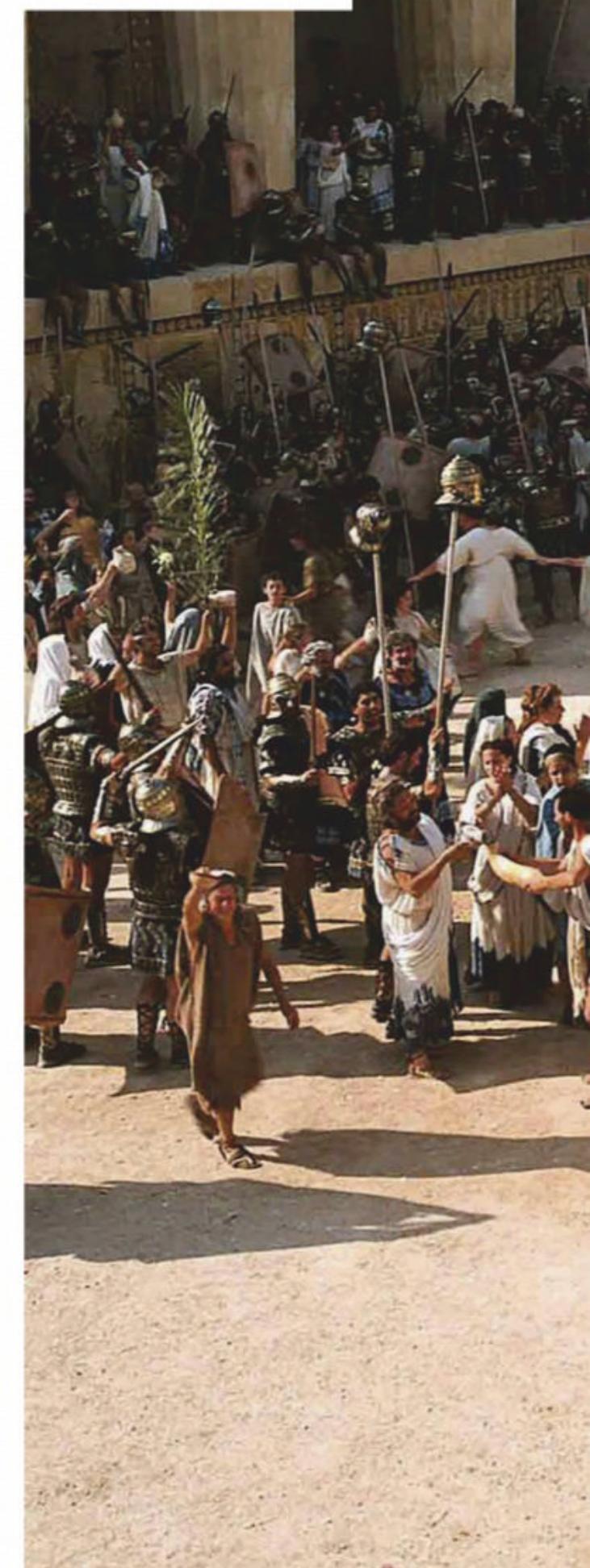


The Trojan prince Paris's abduction of Helen sparked a ten-year war, according to the Homeric tales

in the world and wife to Menelaus, King of Sparta. To right that wrong, Menelaus, aided by other Greek kings and warriors, including his brother Agamemnon, Odysseus, Ajax and Achilles, sailed with a huge force to Troy and went to war against Paris, his brother Hector, their father Priam, and the rest of the Trojan people.

BEWARE THE GREEKS

How the war ended is the most famous element of the story. The Greeks, unable to gain a clear victory on the battlefield – even after Achilles killed Hector – turned instead to a cunning trick. They built a large wooden horse, hid some of their best fighters inside and left it as a 'propitiatory gift' for the Trojans, before



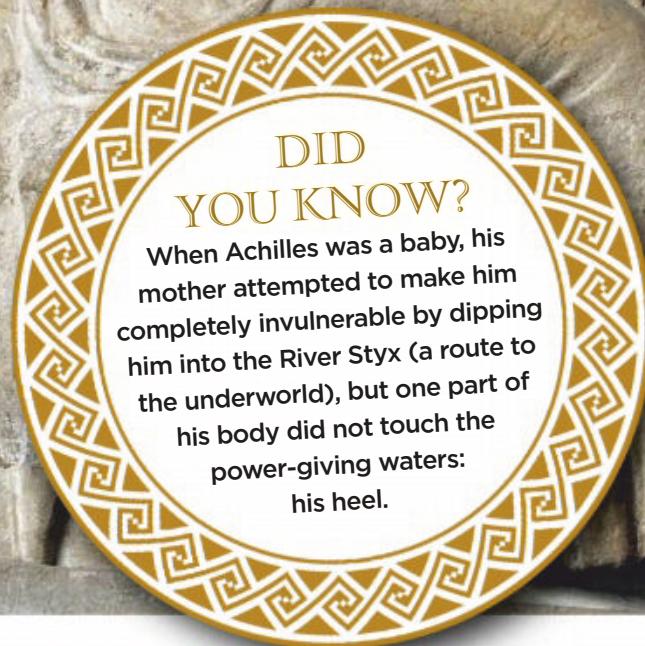
Achilles drags the body of Hector behind his chariot, but the gods protect it from physical mutilation

The Trojan Horse – seen in the 2004 film *Troy* – was received as a gift by the Trojan people, but it was a ploy to ensure their doom



DID
YOU KNOW?

The Trojan priest Laocoön and Cassandra, daughter of King Priam, warned that the wooden horse was a Greek trick and called for it to be destroyed. The Trojans ignored them and suffered the consequences.



packing up their camp and seemingly sailing away. Believing the war to be won, the Trojans moved the horse inside the city walls, intending to use it to honour the gods.

That night, the hidden Greeks climbed out, killed the guards and opened the city gates to allow the entire Greek force to swarm in. Priam, King of Troy, was slaughtered along with every Trojan male – adult and child – while the women and girls were enslaved. The Greeks burned Troy to the ground. As for Helen, the face that launched a thousand ships, her husband Menelaus had insisted that he be the one to kill her, but became overwhelmed by her beauty once again and could not bring himself to do it.

The Trojan Horse trick signalled the end of the war and is remembered as one of history's most infamous military manoeuvres. Yet it was not actually mentioned by Homer. The *Iliad* ends with Hector's death and funeral, when the gods finally convinced Achilles to stop disrespecting the body and give it back to the Trojans for the proper funeral rituals.

A lot happened between that and the Greeks' building of the wooden horse. Achilles himself had been killed by



Paris after being shot by an arrow through the heel, the only vulnerable part of his body, hence the expression 'Achilles heel'. In turn, Paris would also meet his end after being hit by an arrow, fired by a Greek warrior. Two other Greeks, Odysseus and Ajax, managed to retrieve Achilles' body, but they ended up fighting over his armour and the loser, Ajax, went mad and committed suicide. All such

Achilles became a symbol of heroism; this 18-foot statue of the Greek demigod was erected in 1822 to honour the Duke of Wellington

This c600 BC plate shows one of combats mentioned in Homer's *Iliad*: Hector fighting Menelaus



"THE ENTIRETY OF THE ILIAD FOCUSES ON JUST A FEW WEEKS IN THE FINAL YEAR OF WAR"

accounts of what happened after the fall of Hector come from sources other than the *Iliad*.

In fact, the epic poem does not start at the beginning of the ten-year tale either, with Paris's abduction of Helen. The entirety of the *Iliad* – 15,693 lines of verse – focuses on just a few weeks in the final year of the Trojan War.

ANGER OF ACHILLES

Homer's epic tale begins with a disagreement in the Greek camp between the leaders. The demigod Achilles, strongest of them all, feels affronted as he believes he has not been given the degree of honour he deserves from his fellow Greeks, and as such has decided to withdraw from the fight against Troy. He sits on the beach weeping at the injustices done to him, and even prays to the gods that the Greeks will suffer at the hands of the Trojans without him, so that they will be forced to realise his worth. Zeus, king of the gods, agrees to Achilles' demand, and the Greek forces are unable to make any progress against the Trojans.

The many gods of Olympus have all picked sides in the fight, with some supporting the Greeks and others on the side of Troy. As the battle rages, several gods intervene as they protect their

side or harm the other. When Achilles withdraws, though, Zeus finally forbids the other gods to get involved and the Trojans, led by Hector, sweep down to the Greek encampment and are on the verge of setting fire to their ships. It is at this desperate point that the Greek leaders plead with Achilles to return to the fight. He still refuses, but he allows his closest companion, Patroclus, to wear his armour on the battlefield to inspire the men. But when Patroclus charges into the fray, he confronts Hector and is cut down.

The death sends a grief-stricken Achilles into a rage as he vows vengeance on Hector. With new armour made for him by the god Hephaestus, he rides in his chariot to the walls of Troy and faces the Trojan warrior. Hector ignores warnings from the gods and fights Achilles, during which he is stabbed through the neck and dies.

The events of the rest of the war and indeed how the war came about is told not in Homer, but across a wider cycle of epic poems by other writers. It is from other sources that the 'Judgement of Paris' emerged, claiming that the Trojan prince did not suddenly decide to abduct Helen. The story really began when Eris, goddess of strife and discord, presented a golden apple to be given to the 'fairest'

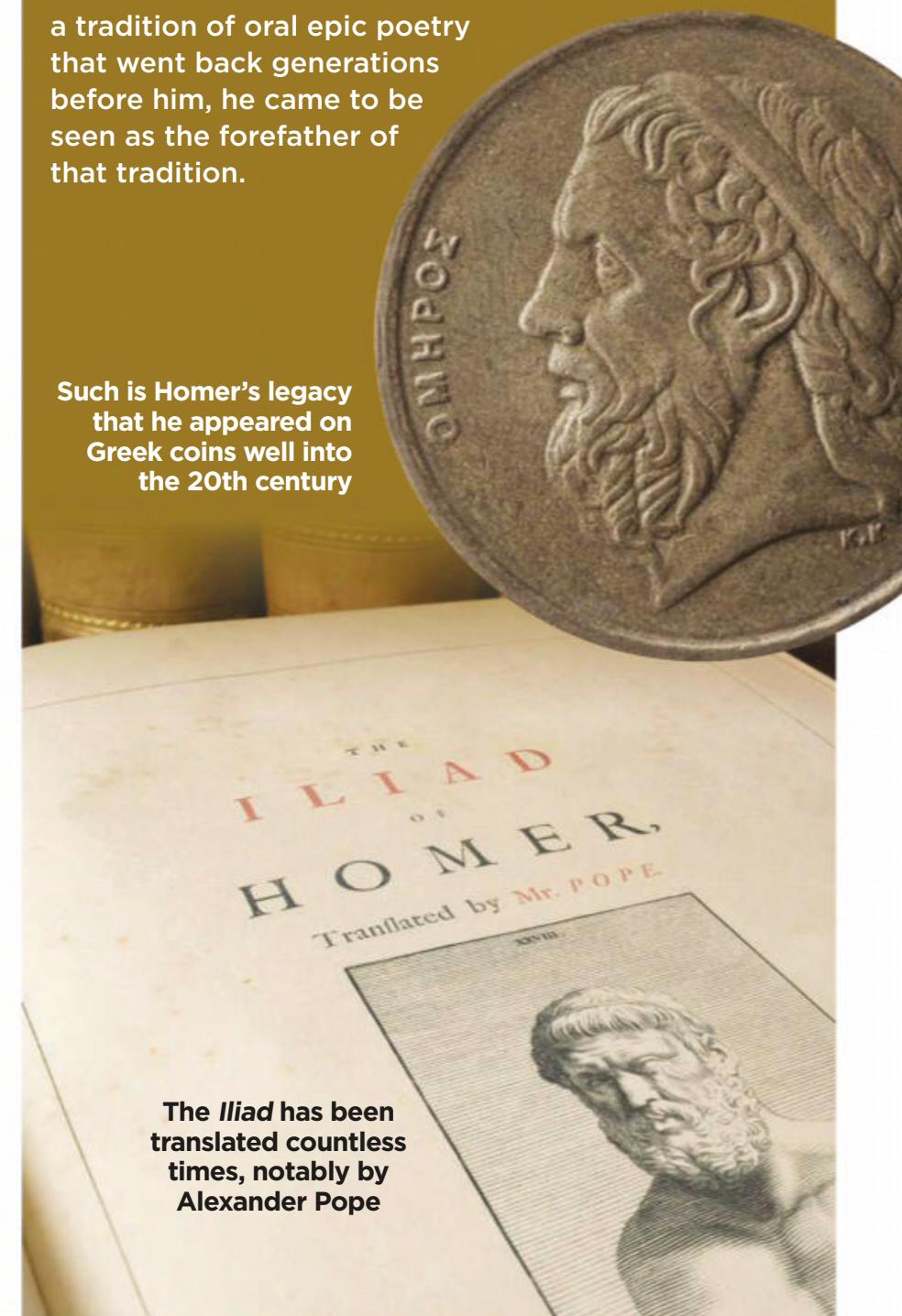
HOMER: THE POET AND THE ENIGMA

The man named as the author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* is as much a myth as the tales he told of warriors, gods and wooden horses. Early records claimed Homer was blind and hailed from the west coast of what is now Turkey, but any firm details are still unknown. Yet Homer became one of the greatest influences on Greek culture and education, and a main source on the Trojan War – despite being thought to have lived in the eighth or ninth century BC, some 500 years after the Trojan War is thought to have occurred.

Homer may have composed and performed his epics for royal courts and festivals. While he would have been one of many oral epic poets over many generations, he came to be regarded as the embodiment of the tradition. Not only did poets and reciters come to style themselves as 'Homeridae', or the 'children of Homer', but later generations ascribed much of oral epic poetry to him. In the sixth century BC, the Athenian tyrant Peisistratus paid for the best of these Homeridae to dictate the Homeric epics for his scribes to write down, helping turn them from an oral to a written art.

So while the real Homer built on a tradition of oral epic poetry that went back generations before him, he came to be seen as the forefather of that tradition.

Such is Homer's legacy that he appeared on Greek coins well into the 20th century



The *Iliad* has been translated countless times, notably by Alexander Pope

GODS AT WAR

Far from just observing the Trojan War from Mount Olympus, the gods picked sides and got involved

HERA

In the story of the 'Judgement of Paris', the wife of Zeus was one of three claiming the golden apple for the most beautiful goddess. She offered Paris lordship of Asia, but lost. She supported the Greeks and often tried to help them behind Zeus' back.



APOLLO

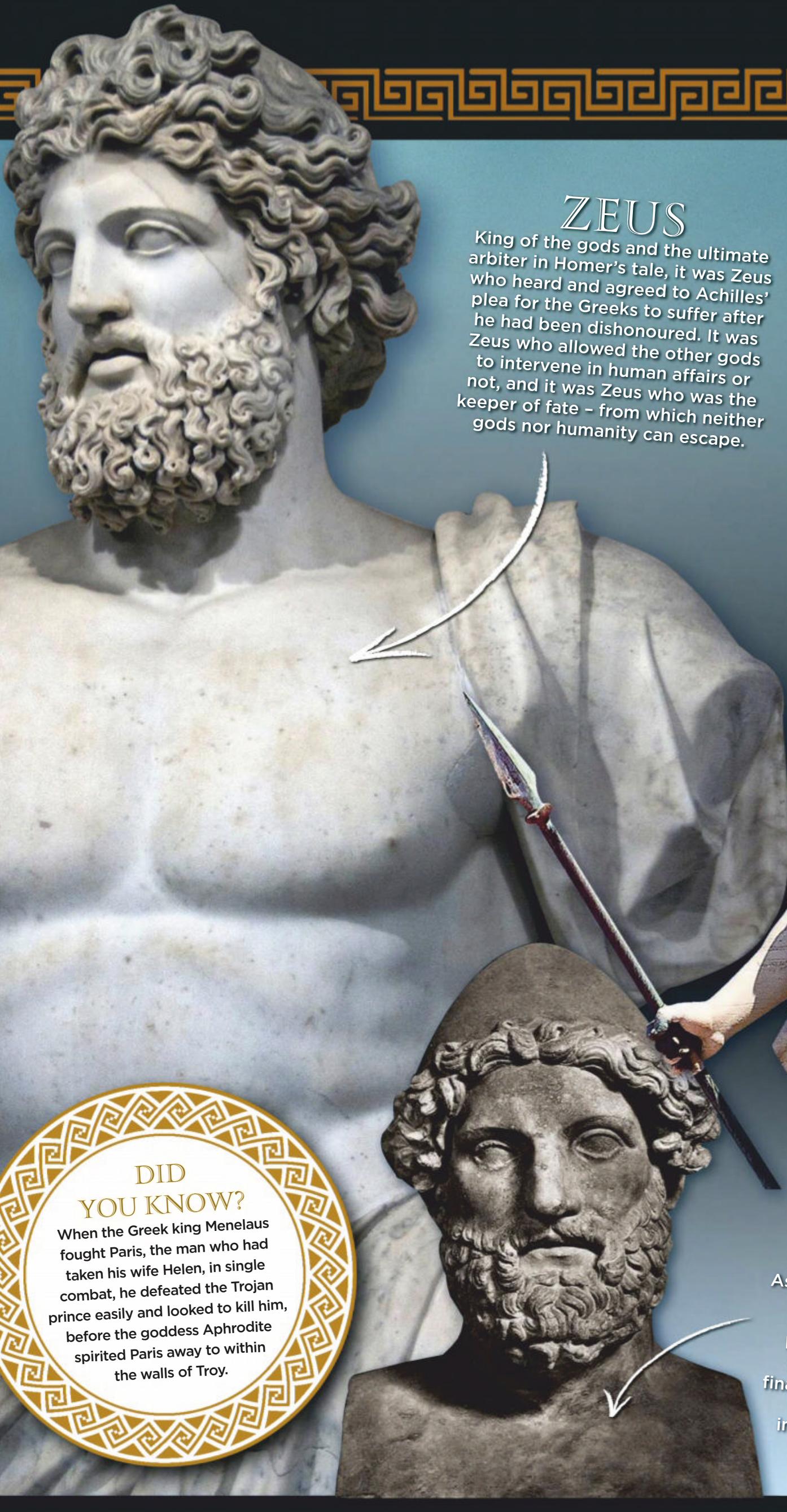
The son of Zeus was a key supporter of the Trojans. He sent plagues on the Greek army, helped Hector on the battlefield to kill Achilles' companion Patroclus, and was one of the most vocal gods to complain to Zeus about Achilles' treatment of Hector's body, which led to Zeus forcing Achilles to allow Hector's burial. Apollo may have also guided the arrow fired by Paris that killed Achilles.



APHRODITE

The goddess of love won the contest for the golden apple by offering Paris the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen. She remained sympathetic to Paris and, despite not being associated with war, fought herself and was even wounded.





ZEUS

King of the gods and the ultimate arbiter in Homer's tale, it was Zeus who heard and agreed to Achilles' plea for the Greeks to suffer after he had been dishonoured. It was Zeus who allowed the other gods to intervene in human affairs or not, and it was Zeus who was the keeper of fate - from which neither gods nor humanity can escape.

ATHENA

The goddess of wisdom and cunning was one of the three contestants for the golden apple to bribe Paris of Troy. She offered him victory in battle and wisdom, but she did not win and so supported the Greeks in the war, often joining the battlefield and encouraging the Greek forces to fight harder.



HEPHAESTUS

As the divine blacksmith, he made the weapons and tools of the gods, such as the winged helmet and sandals of the messenger god Hermes. During the Trojan War, Hephaestus designed new armour for Achilles when he finally decided to re-enter the conflict following the death of Patroclus. Hephaestus also intervened in the fighting on the Greek side.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Greek king Menelaus fought Paris, the man who had taken his wife Helen, in single combat, he defeated the Trojan prince easily and looked to kill him, before the goddess Aphrodite spirited Paris away to within the walls of Troy.



The ruins of Troy were discovered in 1871; there are many layers of civilisation as well as the one said to be destroyed by the Greeks

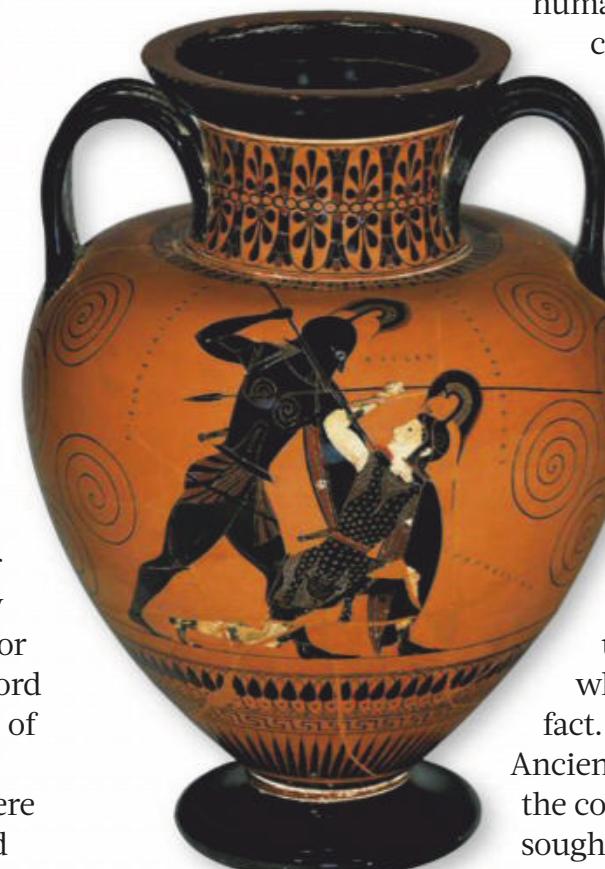


DID YOU KNOW?

King Agamemnon survived the Trojan War and returned to Greece only to be slaughtered by, depending on the version of the tale, either his wife Clytemnestra, who hated him for sacrificing their daughter, or her lover.

For a safe voyage to Troy, King Agamemnon was willing to sacrifice his daughter Iphigenia (centre)

Penthesilea, queen of the Amazons, sided with the Trojans and was killed by Achilles – as depicted on this amphora, which will be displayed at an exhibition at the British Museum



is over just a few weeks in this final year of the campaign that the action of Homer's *Iliad* takes place.

THE PLOT THICKENS

There are two elements then to understand about the *Iliad* and the larger story of the Greek campaign against Troy. The first is that Homer was, in many ways, more interested in the human and divine interactions in and around the pressure-cooker of the battlefield at Troy than about the war itself. The first word of the *Iliad* is 'anger' – the anger of Achilles. The focus of much of Homer's tale was on the havoc wreaked on the Greeks by Achilles' bitter feeling that he had not been shown enough recognition.

On the Trojan side, Homer's interest was on the personal relationships and responsibilities felt by the different warriors. Paris wanted to be heroic, but lacked courage to defend his siblings and city. Hector deeply loved his wife, child and city, but as a man of courage and honour could not ignore the call to defend his home to the death. All the warriors fought for their communities and their own personal glory – glory they hoped would be spoken about for all time. The Greeks used the word 'kleos' to encapsulate this sense of immortal renown.

At the same time, the gods were portrayed not as benevolent and



most believed that the events did happen in large part. The legacy of the war certainly remained present in Greek lives. One region, Locris, continued throughout antiquity to send some of their women each year to act as priestesses of the Temple of Athena at Troy, supposedly to atone for a wrong done by their ancestors during the attacks to take the city. Even a millennium later, Alexander the Great made sure to visit the remains of Troy on his way to conquer Asia, and supposedly picked up Greek armour left there from the time of the war.

The Romans, too, were fascinated with the story. In their own epic tales, their progenitor was a surviving Trojan warrior named Aeneas who made his way to Italy. His legend became the focus for Virgil's epic poem, the *Aeneid*.

EXCAVATING A MYTH

Modern scholarship has, on the whole, been more sceptical. In the 19th century, the site of what is now believed to be Troy was discovered a the mound of Hisarlik in modern-day Turkey. The excavations, led by a

German archaeologist named Heinrich Schliemann, were purported to support the grandeur of Homer's narrative, and Schliemann even claimed to have unearthed the jewellery of Helen and treasures of Priam.

Yet subsequent excavations and historical enquiry have shown that, while the site is almost definitely Troy, it is not of the size recounted by Homer. The city does show signs of destruction – although archaeological efforts were complicated by the existence of multiple settlements laying on top of one another – and clear signs of connection with the Mycenaean world of the Greeks.

In reality, what the site probably indicates is a raid by Mycenaean Greek states on the territory and citadel of Troy in the 13th century BC, which formed nothing more than part of the ongoing military to and fro of the ancient Mediterranean world at the time. This raid became, perhaps as it was one of the last great campaigns before the Mycenaean world started to collapse in on itself, a suitable foundation for oral poets in the following centuries wanting

to compose a tale about the heroism and deeds of former battles.

From that process of oral composition and re-composition grew the fabulous and fantastical stories of the Trojan War, of which the *Iliad* is a crowning glory. It is followed by its sister narrative, Homer's *Odyssey*, which tells the stories of the ten-year return of the Greek warrior Odysseus to his home. As such, the heroes of antiquity can be assured of one thing: they achieved their desire for immortal glory. ☺

GET HOOKED

EXHIBITION

Troy: Myth and Reality is on show at the British Museum from 21 November until 8 March 2020. www.britishmuseum.org/troy

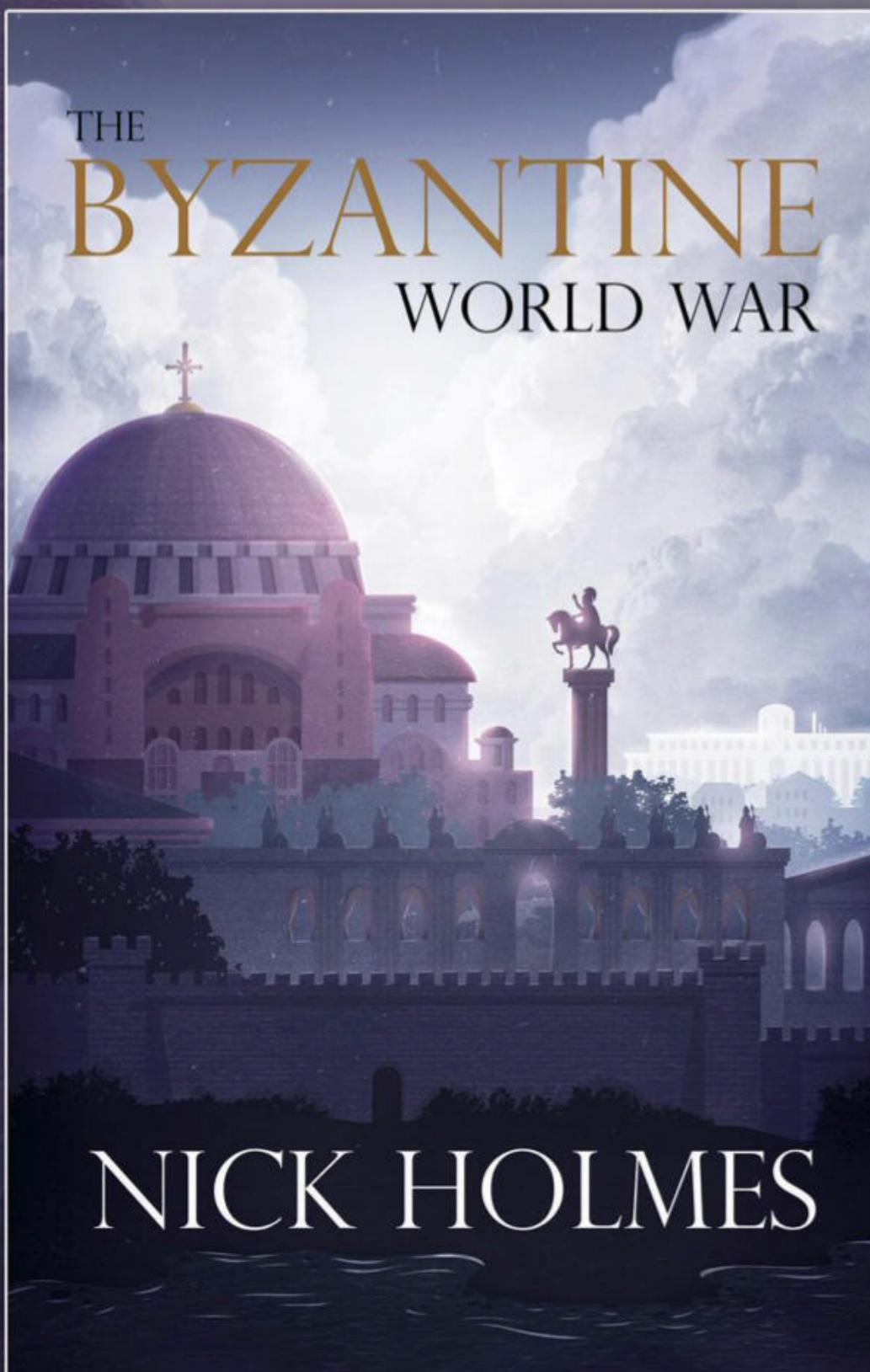
LECTURE

Professor Michael Scott is giving a lecture – What the Greeks Did With the Idea of Troy – at the British Museum on 17 January 2020. www.britishmuseum.org/events

WATCH

The 2018 BBC One series, *Troy: Fall of a City*, is available on Netflix and Google Play

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TAREK EL AWADY
is an international
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the Egyptian Museum
in Cairo. He is the
curator of the upcoming
Tutankhamun exhibition.

TUTANKHAMUN'S DAZZLING TREASURES

Precious objects from the tomb of the Boy King are about to go on show at the Saatchi Gallery in London. Exhibition curator **Tarek El Awady** tells **Emma Slattery Williams** what these objects can tell us about the young pharaoh



◀ WHO WAS TUTANKHAMUN?

Born in c1342 BC, Tutankhamun ruled Ancient Egypt for around ten years until his death at the age of about 19. His short time as pharaoh was not especially memorable, but the 1922 discovery of the Boy King's intact tomb sealed his place in the history books. After years of excavations, the English archaeologist Howard Carter stumbled across Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, revealing rooms filled with what he described as "wonderful things" to the world.



▲ THE GODS AND THE AFTERLIFE

Tutankhamun's tomb had been filled with precious objects to aid the Pharaoh on his journey into the afterlife. This piece of jewellery features a scarab beetle made of lapis lazuli, a semi-precious stone prized for its intense blue colour, making it a favourite for Ancient Egyptian jewellery. The scarab was regarded as sacred; Khepri was the scarab-faced god of the rising Sun and rebirth.

"After grave goods had been placed inside the tomb, a curse inscription was often carved to protect it," explains Tarek El Awady, curator of the TUTANKHAMUN: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh exhibition. "Such curses might have threatened that the bones of anyone who touches the tomb would be crushed by nails or his blood will be poisoned by snakes, for example."

Despite the rumours, it's unknown if any curses were placed on Tutankhamun's tomb. If there were, they weren't heeded as the tomb is believed to have been raided more than once.



▲ WALKING ON GOLD

Made from solid gold for funerary use, these sandals would have been placed on the dead Pharaoh's feet before he was wrapped in strips of linen. They resemble leather and plant sandals Tutankhamun would have worn in life. The role of the sandal-bearer to a pharaoh was one of the most important positions in Ancient Egyptian society. As well as carrying a pharaoh's footwear, they would also wash the royal feet.

▼ IMMORTAL BODY

Ancient Egyptians believed the body was needed in the afterlife and a great deal of care was taken to preserve it after death. "To prevent damage to the deceased's body – something particularly important for pharaohs, who, it was thought, became divine after death – 'stalls' such as these were placed on fingers and toes so that they would keep their shape," says El Awady. "Gold was especially valued because, like the Ancient Egyptian gods, it doesn't rust or change. It goes on forever."



▲ PHARAONIC POWER

The crook and flail were the fundamental symbols of royal power in Ancient Egypt – the shepherd's crook representing kingship and the flail the fertility of the land. This particular example was found within the wrappings of Tutankhamun's mummy. The crossed hands are made of gold with coloured glass while the crook and flail have silver cores.

TOP VIEW



SIDE VIEW



◀ THE BLING RING

A gold ring depicting Amun-Re, a form of the Sun god, was found in the tomb's antechamber, rather than the treasury or burial rooms. Its location led Howard Carter to surmise that graverobbers had abandoned the ring after being disturbed. "This is a wonderful example of some of the jewellery specifically prepared for the dead pharaoh," says El Awady. "It is made out of almost 50 grams of solid gold – no one could wear such a ring on their finger as it's so heavy."

"The design of this ring is particularly unusual. We would normally find the name of the relevant king in the cartouche, but here we see the image of a god, in this case Amun-Re, king of the Ancient Egyptian deities."

► REFLECTION AND RESURRECTION

Found inside the tomb's treasury was this wooden mirror case in the shape of an ankh, although it appears the mirrors inside were stolen at some point in history. The ankh is the hieroglyphic symbol for life, as well as mirror. So while mirrors held a clear practical purpose, Ancient Egyptians also viewed them as symbols of eternal life and resurrection.





◀ **DIVINE PROTECTION**
Elaborate pieces of jewellery known as pectorals were similar to large necklaces and would have been worn over the chest. The gold falcon here represents the god Horus, who is holding the sign for eternity (shen) in his claws. Horus was thought to be the creator and protector of the pharaohs.



◀ FUN AND GAMES

As well as food, clothes and weapons, several games – including this Senet board – were also found in the Boy King's tomb, to enjoy in the afterlife. Senet was a popular game in Ancient Egypt across all levels of society. The game was traditionally played by two people, but scenes on the wall of Nefertari's tomb – wife of Pharaoh Rameses II – show her playing against an invisible adversary in order to move on into the afterlife.

► EGYPTIAN BOOMERANG

An item that may look out of place in an Ancient Egyptian tomb was the boomerang. "We found many different boomerangs in the tomb, the non-returning and the returning kind," says El Awady. "They were used from at least the Old Kingdom, many hundreds of years before Tutankhamun. The most famous depiction of their use was of a boomerang being thrown from a boat in the marshlands in Delta, for catching birds."



◀ SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE

This wooden container is believed to have held a mummified duck while others held cuts of meat, such as beef and goat. Some 48 of these 'meat mummies' were found in Tutankhamun's tomb.

"Cuts of meat were wrapped in linen and placed inside these containers to sustain the Pharaoh during his journey to the afterlife," says El Awady. "They have even been created in the shape of the cuts of meat contained within."

► MAGICAL MUSIC

This hand-held musical instrument – about 20 inches high – is known as a sistrum and may have been used during Tutankhamun's burial rites.

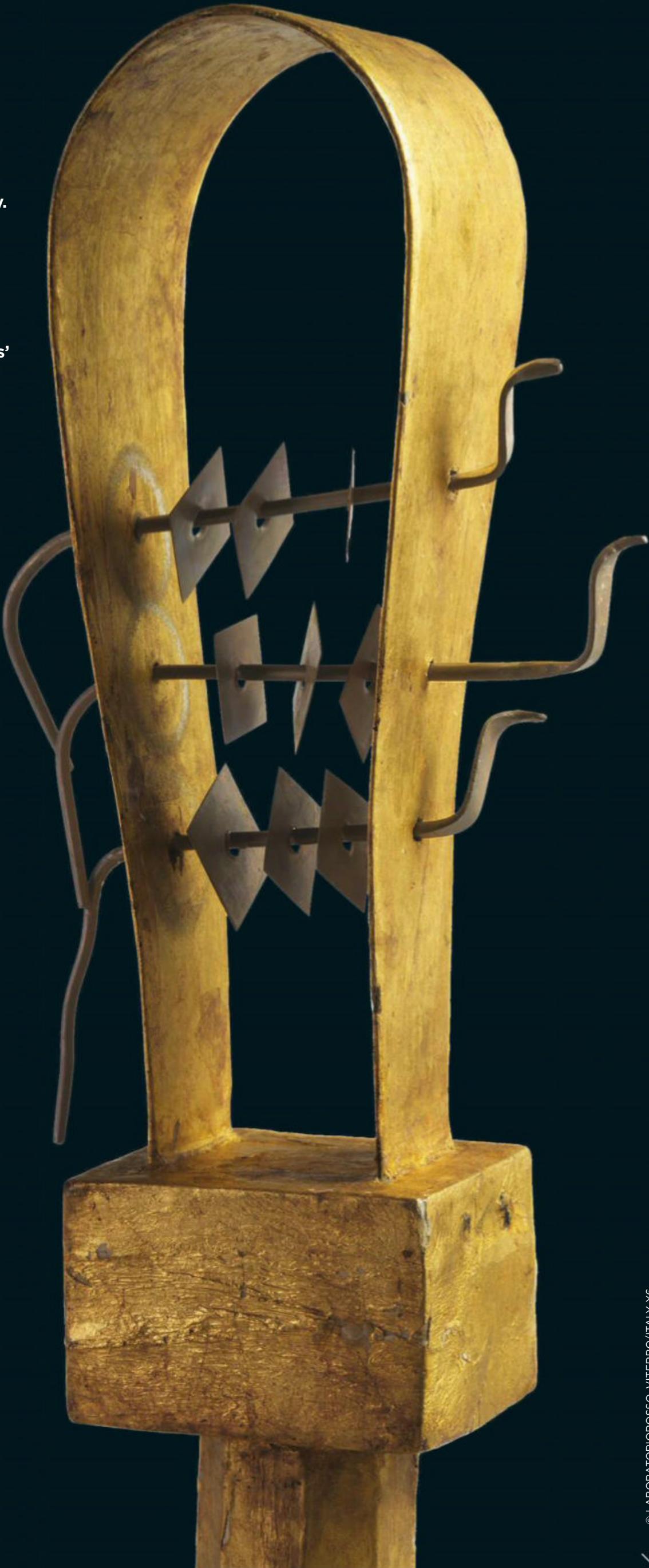
"We'll be displaying one of two sistums found in the antechamber, above one of the Pharaoh's funerary beds," comments El Awady. "Sistums were usually played by women; perhaps Ankhesenamun, wife and queen of Tutankhamun, was holding this object during her husband's funeral."

"The sistrum was not only a musical instrument; it had a greater value, as it was believed to be the most beloved musical instrument of Hathor. Hathor was the pharaohs' protective goddess with a temple in Dendera where singers played sistums – the rattling sound they made was believed to bring life to the body."



▲ A HEAVY HEART

Removing the body's internal organs was a vital part of the mummification process. These were stored in canopic jars, which often had elaborate stoppers like this one, made of calcite. The heart was the one organ which was never removed; it was believed to be weighed in the afterlife against the Feather of Ma'at – the symbol of justice and truth. The god Osiris was thought to determine if the deceased had committed good deeds on Earth and therefore deserved to live forever in the afterlife.



► FIERCE PROTECTOR

This wooden shield, one of eight found in the tomb's annexe, portrays Tutankhamun as a sphinx, trampling on his enemies. A falcon sits atop the sphinx, a depiction of the war god Montu. The openwork of the wood suggests that this shield was created for ceremonial purposes rather than actual combat. Symbolically, the shield depicts the Pharaoh as a strong leader, protecting Egypt from disorder by driving out its enemies.



◀ HAND OF THE KING

These linen gloves are one of the few items in the exhibition that experts believe were actually used by Tutankhamun while he was alive.

"Most of the objects found in the tomb are ceremonial, or designed to be used by the Pharaoh in the afterlife" says El Awady. "These gloves, made out of linen, were probably worn by Tutankhamun during the winter time, when he was living in Memphis [then capital of Ancient Egypt], or when he was riding his royal chariot."



GET HOOKED



VISIT

TUTANKHAMUN: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh - the largest collection of Tutankhamun's tomb goods to leave Egypt - will be on display from 2 November 2019 to 3 May 2020 at the Saatchi Gallery, London. www.tutankhamun-london.com

LISTEN

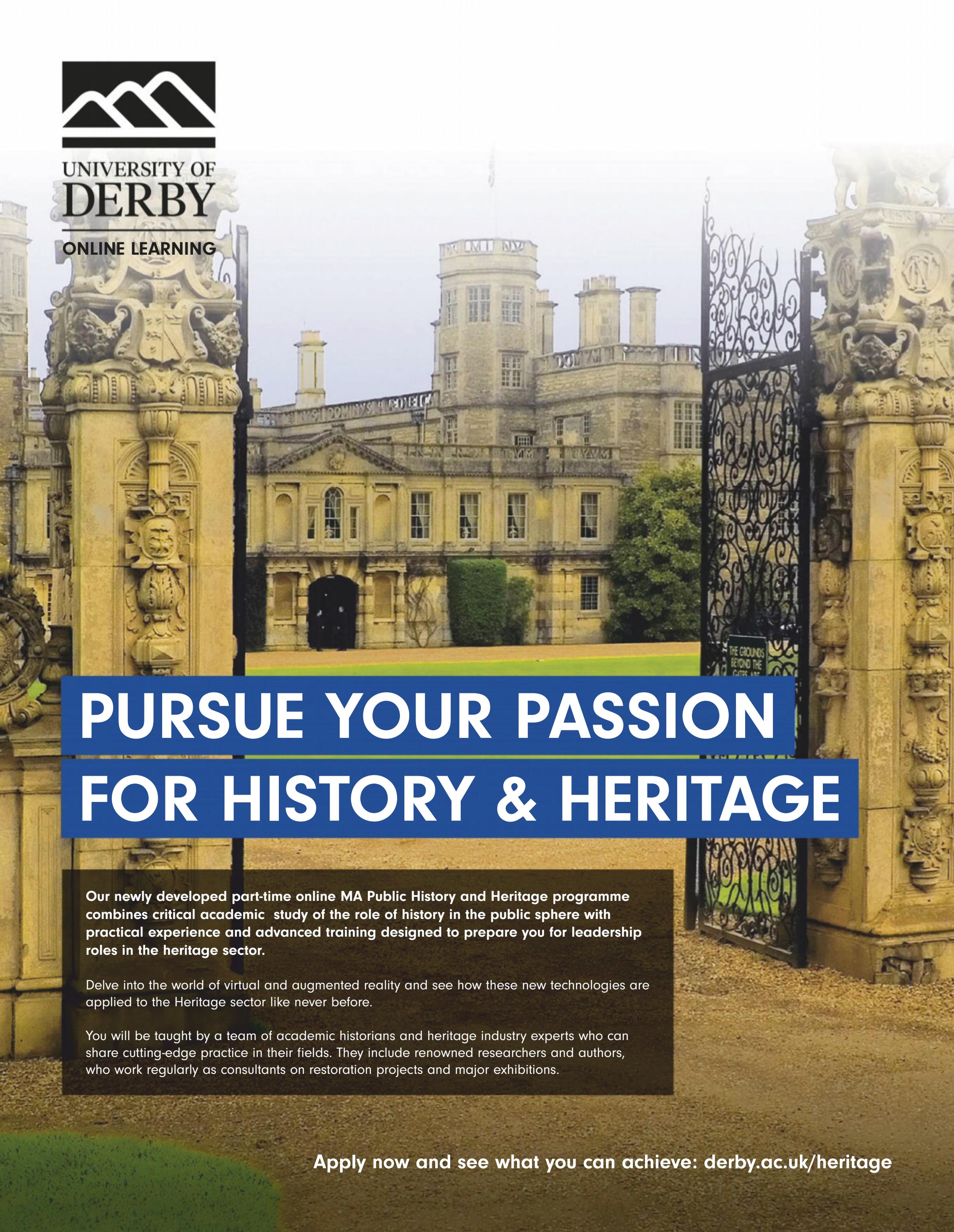


The Cult of King Tut, which explores the cult of 'Tutmania' following Tut's discovery in 1922, is due to air on BBC Radio 4 in late October/early November



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James Glaisher (*left*)
and Henry Coxwell
(*right*) reached new
heights, but at
extreme risk





REACH FOR THE SKIES

The deeds, and near disaster, of two balloon-riding Victorians have inspired a new film. **Nige Tassell** tells the un-airbrushed story of the original aeronauts

The sight of a hot air balloon was a popular Victorian spectacle, so the quiet scenes on 5 September 1862 would have made for a curious sight. On the outskirts of the Black Country town of Wolverhampton, two men climbed into the basket of a large balloon, but this was not to be a flight for public entertainment or simple pleasure. Armed with scientific instruments and packing a cargo of six pigeons, the men had loftier intentions.

The more senior of the two was the fabulously bearded scientist James Glaisher, the superintendent of the Magnetic and Meteorological Department at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, who would go on to be a founder member of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain. His co-pilot was Henry Coxwell, a highly experienced balloonist.

The day's flight was one of many the men had made together – part of a series of 28 balloon ascents commissioned by the

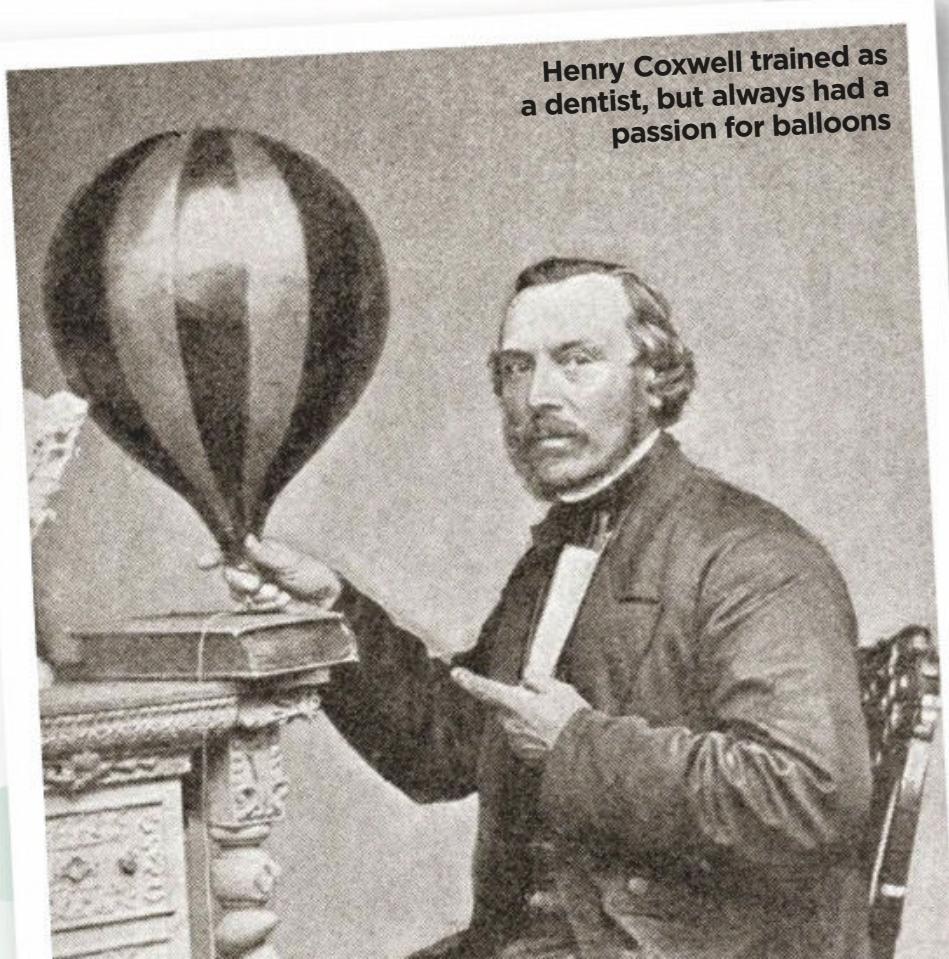
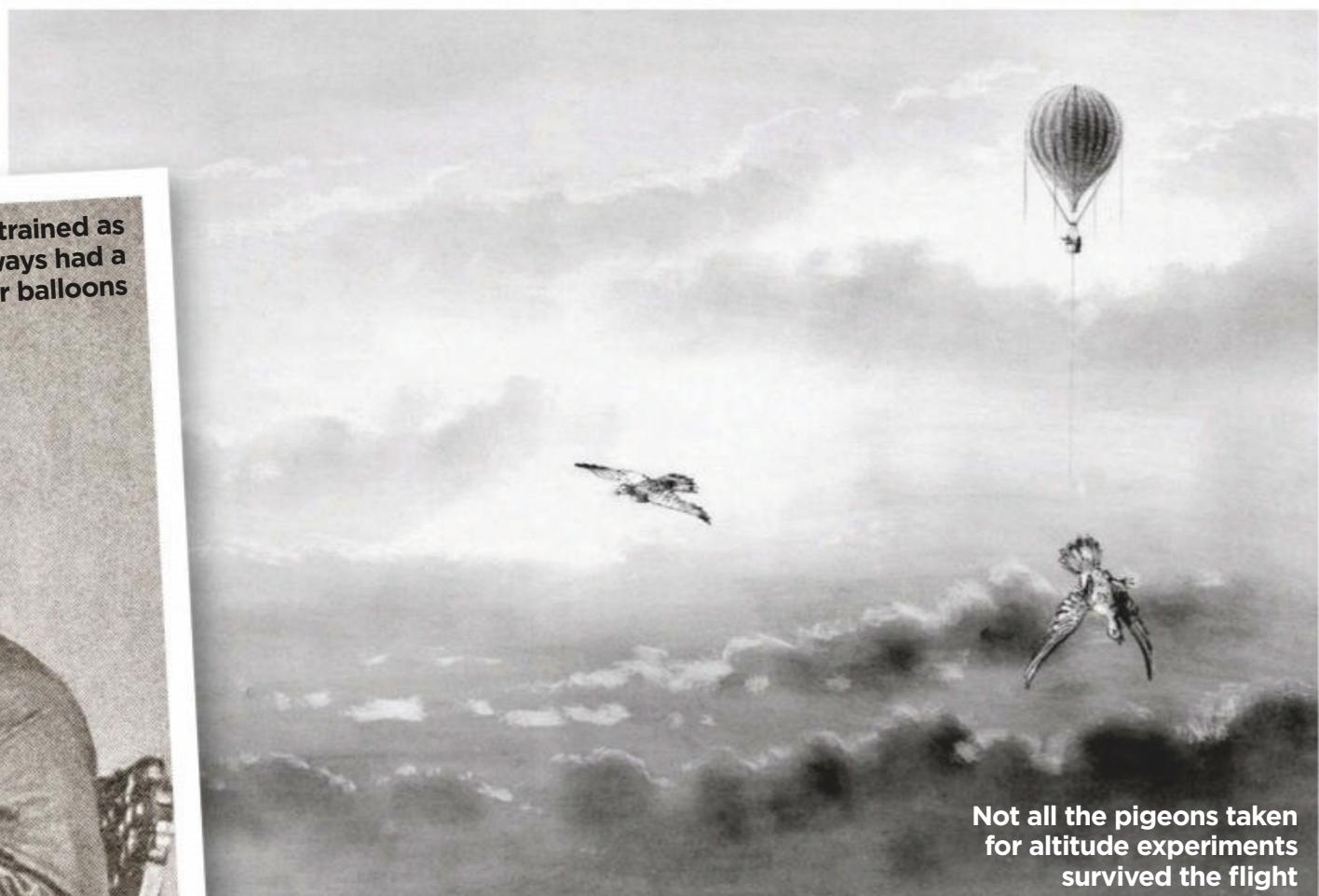
British Association for the Advancement of Science. Glaisher and Coxwell's mission was to measure the temperature and humidity of the atmosphere to better understand how this governed the weather – perhaps the scientist saw himself as a latter-day Christopher Columbus or Ferdinand Magellan, keen to explore what he called the "aerial ocean", which offered him "a boundless sea of enquiry".

"The scientist perhaps saw himself as a latter day Magellan or Columbus, exploring the 'aerial ocean'"

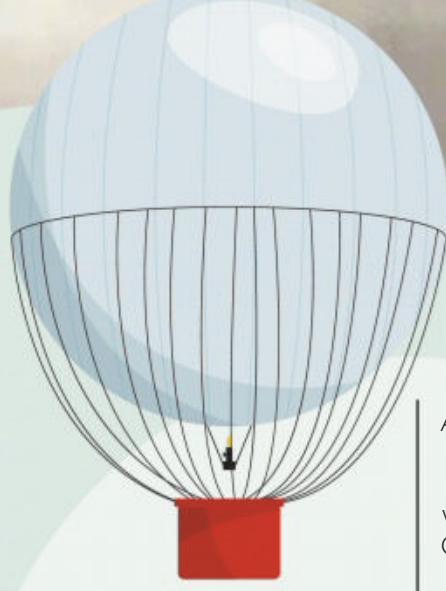
The weather that September day proved to be kinder than on earlier attempts, especially two months earlier when the pair's flight plans had been scuppered by unusually high winds for July. At three minutes past 1pm, they released the tethers of their balloon, named *Mars*, and the upward voyage began. Glaisher was delighted that, on this windless afternoon, they rose "with the ease of an ascending vapour".

The balloon climbed two miles in just 19 minutes, aided by the potent gas supply 'brewed' by the manager of the nearby Wolverhampton Gas Works.

Once airborne, Glaisher the scientist set about his work. One experiment was to observe how high altitude affected the pigeons he had brought along, so as the



“Coxwell had to climb out of the basket and into the balloon’s rigging in temperatures of minus 20 degrees”

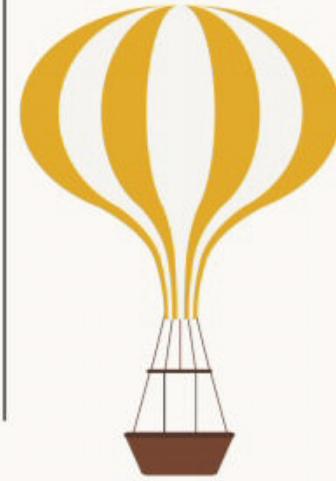


6 JULY 1819

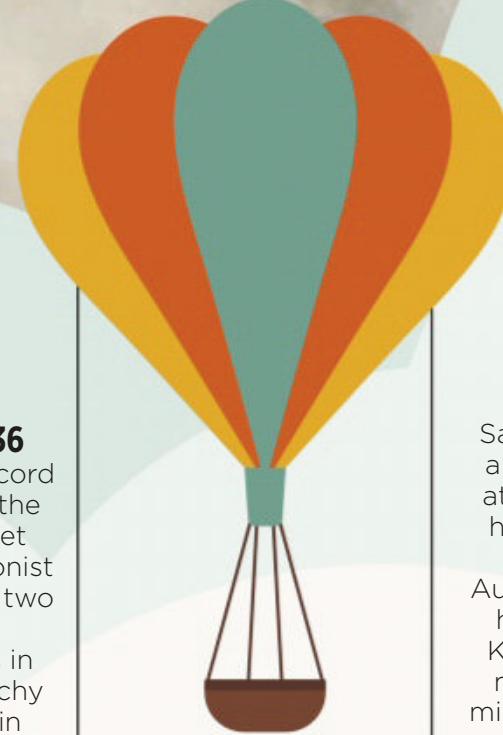
Having been flying balloons for 14 years, French aeronaut Sophie Blanchard – the first female professional balloonist and husband to Channel-hopping Jean-Pierre – dies when her hydrogen-filled balloon catches fire. As well as long-distance and high-altitude flights, Blanchard specialised in night-time spectacles during which she would set off fireworks.

7 NOVEMBER 1836

A long-distance record that will last until the 20th century is set when British balloonist Charles Green and two others fly from Vauxhall Gardens in London to the Duchy of Nassau (now in Germany). The 480-mile trip takes 18 hours – although they had prepared for it to take two weeks.



1861-65
During the American Civil War, both the Union and Confederate armies use gas balloons to carry out aerial reconnaissance missions. It is not the first time balloons are used in warfare, though. In 1849, the Austrians sent hundreds of unmanned balloons over Venice armed with bombs in a prototype air raid.



27 MAY 1931

Sat in a pressurised aluminium capsule attached to a large hydrogen balloon, Swiss physicist Auguste Piccard and his assistant Paul Kipfer reach 15,781 metres (nearly 10 miles), becoming the first to enter the Earth's stratosphere.



4 MAY 1961

The Strato-Lab V high-altitude hydrogen-filled balloon ascends to a record-breaking height of 34,668 metres (more than 21.5 miles), piloted by Americans Malcolm Ross and Victor Prather. The nearly 10-hour flight is successful, with the men wearing the US Navy's Mark IV full-pressure suit, but ends in tragedy when Prather drowns after the balloon ditches in the sea at the end of the descent. Ross, who had spent more than 100 hours in balloon flight during his career, does not fly again.



11 SEPTEMBER 2016

Bill Costen, the first African-American commercial hot-air balloon pilot in the United States, receives a lifetime achievement award from the Balloon Federation of America. The former American Footballer began his ballooning career more than 40 years previously, in 1975.



Inspired by a later flight, James Glaisher made this illustration of a meteor shower for his 1871 book *Travels in the Air*

“Glaisher picked up his pencil... scientific endeavour was not be dented by a near-death experience”

◁ pencil to continue his readings. Successful scientific endeavour was paramount and certainly not to be dented by the mere trifle of a near-death experience. That was, at least, until he noticed that Coxwell had not gone unaffected. His co-pilot's hands were black from frostbite so Glaisher immediately sought a remedy, rubbing brandy into the hands until circulation was restored.

The last reading Glaisher made before falling unconscious had been at 29,000ft. Although his calculations that the balloon carried on above 36,000ft are almost certainly flawed (both men would surely have perished at that height), the confirmed height was still higher than anyone else had managed before.

As they headed back to terra firma, Glaisher released a fourth pigeon, but it simply hitched a ride atop the balloon. The pair landed in a farmer's field in Shropshire, 20 miles from the launch site. Since, as Glaisher subsequently moaned, “no conveyance of any kind could be obtained”, he was forced to walk seven miles to the market town of Ludlow to find help. Coxwell

stayed behind to look after the balloon as, after a previous landing in the area, the aeronauts had encountered hostility from locals annoyed at potential damage to crops.

Despite the high drama on board, the flight had been an unqualified success – and not only for the altitude reached. The readings from the ascent provided the first direct indication of the existence of the stratosphere, and, as Glaisher's great-grandson John L Hunt has noted, the events of the day “was one of the first practical examples of the effect of the lack of oxygen on the human body”.

Glaisher, as the scientist and project leader, is rightly celebrated for the achievement, but there is a danger of downplaying Coxwell's contribution. After all, he was the man who ensured the balloon didn't disappear into the atmosphere and who revived his colleague. The new film *The Aeronauts*, which revisits this feat of Victorian exploration, more than downplays Coxwell's role. He has been taken out of the story altogether and replaced by the fictional character of Amelia Wren.

There is slight compensation that, during their lifetimes, Coxwell was yet to be airbrushed from history. In the days after they reached for the skies, the duo's travails were chronicled and lauded by the press. The ascent was the lead story in *The Times* and *Punch* magazine celebrated the feat in verse:

*'Tis true that these two men did go
Six miles towards the sky;
But as for Icarus, we know
That story's all my eye.
Then what's the use to hear about
Old heroes' fabled acts
When now they're beaten out and out
By wonders that are facts.*

And what of the two remaining pigeons? Both landed with the balloon – one dead, but the other, after a short recovery, escaped to the sanctuary of the Shropshire countryside. It would never fly so high again. And neither would Glaisher and Coxwell. ◎

GET HOOKED

WATCH

The Aeronauts, starring Eddie Redmayne as James Glaisher, will be released in UK cinemas on 6 November and 6 December in the US

LISTEN

BBC WORLD SERVICE The history of hot-air balloons is explored in an episode of *The History of Flight*, which can be found on the BBC World Service archive. www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03ghnv9

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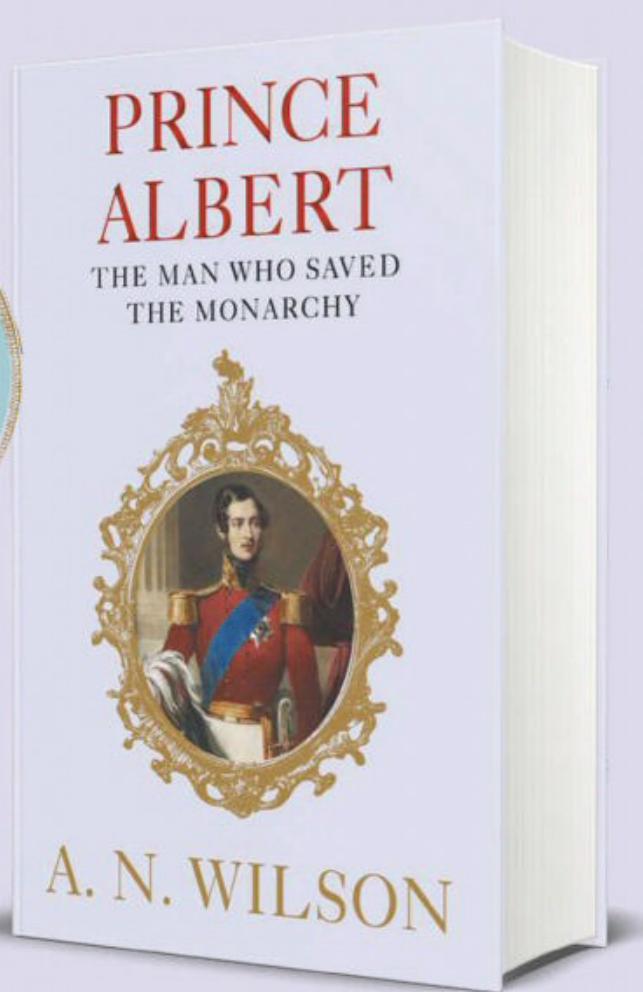
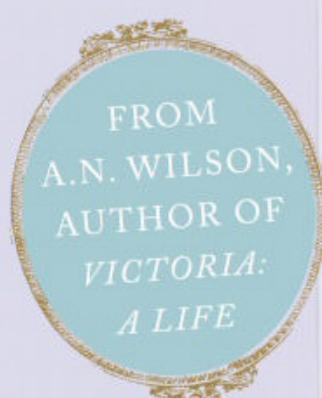
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Rani Lakshmibai India's Joan of Arc

The Queen of Jhansi became a folk hero when she took on the British East India Company, writes **Jaishree Misra**



ABOVE: Rani Lakshmibai leads her troops in battle against the besieging East India Company

RIGHT: This letter was one of several pleading India's Governor-General to recognise Lakshmibai's son as Jhansi's rightful ruler

Two years after Queen Victoria married Albert, another young woman was crowned a queen in a distant part of the British Empire: the teenaged Manikarnika, who was renamed Lakshmibai after her marriage to Raja Gangadhar, the ruler of a small, independent kingdom in northern India named Jhansi.

The fortunes of these two queens could not, however, have been more different. Unlike Victoria, who gave birth to nine children, Rani Lakshmibai had only one child – a boy named Damodar Rao whom she and her husband adopted in 1853, two years after the early death of their own baby. Eleven years into her marriage, Lakshmibai was widowed and, following a series of events over which she had little control, ended up raising an army in order to fight the mighty British forces when they laid siege to her kingdom. Just a few weeks later, Lakshmibai led her army into an unequal battle against the British, losing her life when she was barely 30.

Pen portraits of this young woman astride a horse, her young son strapped to her back as she brandishes a sword, are a common sight in Indian primary school history books, and Lakshmibai's story served as a source of inspiration for nationalist writers when India's freedom

movement started many years later. But her name is one now little known in Britain, despite the fact that her fate was dictated at almost every stage by the British government of the time. In yet another twist of tragic irony, it was in all probability never Lakshmibai's intention to fight the British. The kingdom of Jhansi had historically maintained

"Lasksmibai's fate was dictated by the British at almost every turn"

cordial relations with the East India Company – the powerful corporation that dominated global trade between Europe, South Asia and the Far East, and which, by 1818, had direct control over two thirds of the Indian subcontinent, with indirect control over the rest (see box on opposite page).

BAD COMPANY

When Lakshmibai's husband died in 1853, India's Governor-General, James Ramsay, the Marquess of Dalhousie,



announced that Jhansi was to be annexed to British India under the 'doctrine of lapse', a policy by which the East India Company rejected adopted Hindu heirs as legitimate rulers. Jhansi would therefore pass into company ownership by default.

Deeply unhappy with Ramsay's decision, Lakshmibai – who, unusually for girls at the time, had been educated as a child – wrote a number of letters to Government House in Calcutta, pleading for her son's adoption to be recognised and for her to rule Jhansi as its regent. Her pleas were largely ignored by Dalhousie, even though Lakshmibai's submission was supported by Major Ellis and Major Malcolm, the British Political Agents of Jhansi at the time of its annexation, both of whom recognised and wrote about Lakshmibai's capabilities and administrative skills.

Dalhousie, however, overlooked these suggestions, as well as Jhansi's history of loyalty and cooperation with the British. Undeterred, Lakshmibai invited to her court an Australian barrister, who had successfully represented an Agra banker against the East India Company. She also sent an emissary to London to plead her case at Westminster.

These peaceable, diplomatic and legal efforts would all come to naught and Lakshmibai was further cowed by Dalhousie's insistence that she repay her husband's debts before receiving any payments she was due. It would have seemed at that point that she had no other recourse than to retire to a quiet life of widowhood as had, in all likelihood, been intended by Dalhousie – he had already pensioned off a number of Indian royals.

TRIGGER WARNING

The summer of 1857 brought an unrelated series of uprisings against British rule that would engulf Jhansi's fortunes once again. The reasons for the disaffection that swept across India were multiple and complex, and Jhansi's annexation is only one example of a widely felt growing sense of injustice. The final trigger was provided by rumours that new musket cartridges that required their tips to be bitten off had been greased by cow and pig fat, anathema to both Hindu and Muslim soldiers in the British army who had already grown suspicious that efforts were being made to convert them to Christianity. The first soldiers to mutiny

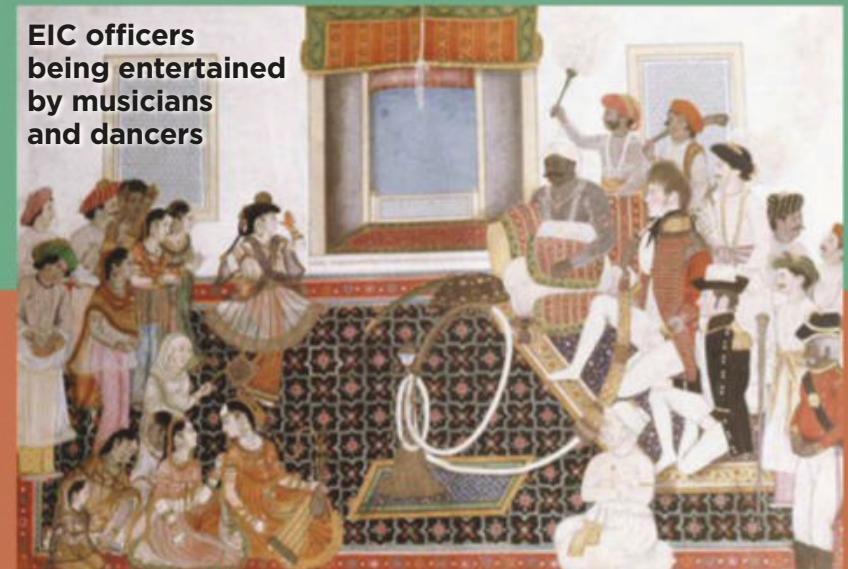
were in the busy garrison town of Meerut in May 1857. Within days, the insurgency had spread to many other North Indian towns to become a mass rebellion that came to be referred to by the British as the Great Mutiny – and the First War of Independence by many Indians.

Jhansi remained in a state of uneasy calm for several weeks as the reports of unrest elsewhere trickled in – in some places, British regiments and cantonments (military quarters) were being attacked, while in others there were massacres of officers and civilians. Then, on 4 June, some soldiers of the Twelfth Bengal Native Infantry and the Fourteenth Irregular Cavalry stationed in Jhansi mutinied and invaded the Star Fort, home to both the city's armoury and treasury.

Ironically, the only possibility of a safe haven for the British in Jhansi now lay with the kingdom's deposed Queen, who had continued to maintain a reasonable relationship with the local European community despite her own strained circumstances. Lakshmibai was approached by Captain Gordon, commander of the British forces at Jhansi, with a request that she take charge of her state until the mutiny had been put down, and also provide sanctuary to a group of around 60 British men, women and children at Jhansi Fort, a large hilltop stronghold.

Lakshmibai acquiesced but, on 7 July, Jhansi fort was besieged by mutineering soldiers and Captain

EIC officers being entertained by musicians and dancers



THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

Founded in 1600 by royal charter from Queen Elizabeth I, the East India Company (EIC) held a monopoly on all English trade to and from Asia. When it became clear that the company would benefit from a foothold on the Indian mainland, its owners persuaded James VI and I to let them send an envoy to Jahangir, the mighty emperor of the Mughal Empire.

Sir Thomas Roe arrived in India in 1615, laden with gifts, yet all he could manage after three years of diplomacy was a trading station at Surat with limited privileges. However, by 1626, the EIC had its first fortifications, and in 1688 Madras became the first English municipality with its own civil administration. Bombay came into British hands as Charles II's dowry when he married the Portuguese Catherine of Braganza.

The Company's fortunes burgeoned after the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1707, whose expansionist wars had weakened the Mughal Empire. The EIC developed an army that fought successful battles in Plassey and Buxar under generals Robert Clive and Hector Munro, taking control of large swathes of Bengal by the middle of the 18th century. This growing power led the British government to pass two East India Company Acts to control affairs in India but it was only after the uprising in 1857 that the Company was finally wound up, with India passing officially into the British Empire.



Built in 1613, Jhansi Fort was both the scene of Lakshmibai taking command of her kingdom from the British and her midnight flight on horseback

Gordon was killed. The British surrendered and were offered a safe passage from Jhansi to the neighbouring kingdom of Datia if they laid down their arms. They did so, yet as the defenceless British contingent filed out, they were set upon just outside the walls of the fort and massacred.

The exact part played by Lakshmibai in this horrific act remains mired by numerous contradictory accounts. It may have been that she too had been taken unawares, or was in genuine fear of the mutinying soldiers who had, reportedly, threatened to execute her if she did not comply. But, in the wake of the bloodbath, there were many – including Thornton, the Deputy-Collector of Jhansi (a taxman)

- who claimed that the slaughter had taken place "wholly at the instigation" of Lakshmibai.

This opinion was incorporated into the official British report of the incident and was used in attempts to prove Lakshmibai's culpability in the massacre – despite contradictory reports suggesting that Lakshmibai's hand had been forced by the rebels. One Jhansi resident later wrote to Lakshmibai's adopted son: "Your poor mother was very unjustly and cruelly dealt with - no one knows her true case as I do."

Lakshmibai herself wrote an account of the massacre to Major Erskine, the commander at Sagar, condemning the "faithlessness, cruelty and violence" shown by the rebelling troops to the British contingent and regretting that she had not had sufficient soldiers and ammunition of her own to help.

Erskine forwarded Lakshmibai's letters to central government with a comment that their content "agrees with what I have heard from other sources" and, in the absence of a local British presence, he immediately requested Lakshmibai take charge of the administration of Jhansi, calming

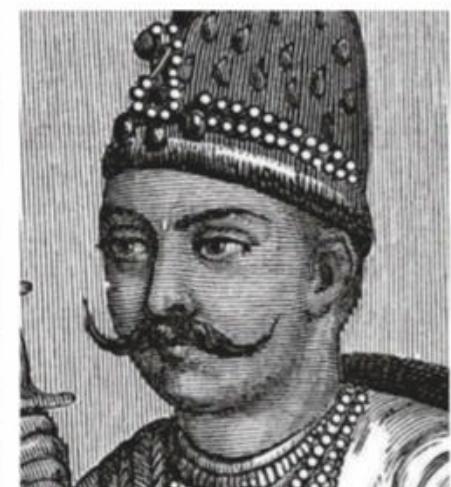
and bringing order, including collecting revenues and recruiting police.

GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

For a few months, Lakshmibai ruled Jhansi as she had always wanted, while the British set about putting down the rebellion in the rest of the country, gradually reclaiming Delhi and Oudh, and exacting merciless and well-documented vengeance in those areas that had shown the most insurgency.

However, those stray reports of Lakshmibai aiding rebel activity in Jhansi had not been forgotten. Added to that was deemed 'guilt by association' with her childhood friend Nana Sahib, the adopted son of the last Peshwa (ruler) of the Maratha Empire. Nana Sahib is thought by many to have been the perpetrator of gruesome riverside massacres that had taken place at Kanpur during the rebellion.

Within months, Lakshmibai had been officially implicated in the 1857 Jhansi uprising and declared (by Dr Thomas Lowe, the Medical Officer of the Madras Sappers and Miners) to be "the Jezebel of India ... the young, energetic, proud, unbending, uncompromising Ranees ... upon her head rested the blood of



Rebel leaders
Nana Sahib
(above left) and
Tayta Tope (above
right) were both
implicated in
the massacre
at Kanpur

the slain, and a punishment as awful awaited her".

That punishment was to come in early 1858, when General Hugh Rose started to march towards Jhansi with an army that clearly sought vengeance. When this news reached Lakshmibai, she knew the die was cast. The time for writing letters and pleading her case was long over and so she set about raising an army and training her own troops instead. Recruiting 14,000 volunteers – women among them – she also began to strengthen the defences of Jhansi Fort.

The British Army's siege of Jhansi began on 21 March 1858. Numerous eyewitness reports place Lakshmibai as being constantly on the ramparts,

"The stray reports that the Rani had aided the rebels had not been forgotten"

At Kanpur, rebel soldiers fired at the fleeing British after they were given safe passage to cross the Ganges by Nana Sahib



Native princes arrive at camp for the 1877 Delhi Durbar, in which Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India



encouraging her soldiers and never far from the thick of battle. In the historical records of the 14th Light Dragoons, she is described as "a perfect Amazon in bravery ... just the sort of daredevil woman soldiers admire". But Jhansi was unable to withstand the ferocity of the attack and, on 3 April, the fort was breached. Sometime later that night, Lakshmibai made a daring escape on horseback with her son and a small band of followers.

THE LOST QUEEN

After Jhansi had been ransacked, its palace and library burnt and around 5,000 of its citizens killed, General Rose's army followed Lakshmibai first to Kalpi and then Gwalior, in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, where she joined forces with Tatya Tope, another of the uprising's notable leaders. A series of battles followed and Lakshmibai finally lost her life at Kotah-ki-Serai on 17 June, shot down from her horse by a trooper of the 8th Hussars.

General Rose later wrote to the commander of the British Army that Lakshmibai had been "a sort of Indian Joan of Arc", while the 8th Hussars' own regimental history records that with her death "the rebels lost their bravest and best military leader". Despite this, for many years Indian people felt able to keep Lakshmibai's memory alive

only through ballads and song – it would have been too dangerous to openly support her in the wake of the 1857 uprising, which was eventually crushed by the British.

The rebellion's effect, however, was far-reaching, and on 1 November 1858 Queen Victoria issued a proclamation. Along with India's new Governor-General Lord Canning, she pleaded for clemency to be shown to those who had risen up against British rule and explicitly renounced "the right and the desire to impose Our convictions on any of Our subjects". The practice of Indian royals adopting their heirs was reinstated at the healing Delhi Durbar (court) of 1877 and Queen Victoria declared Empress of India, the East India Company having been dissolved in 1874.

Lakshmibai's legacy remains complex: most contemporary British sources vilify her while Indian ones deify her. Each approach is probably as unjustifiable as the other. ◎

GET HOOKED

LISTEN



Sunil Khilnani explores the life of Rani Lakshmibai on an episode of *Incarnations: India in 50 Lives* on BBC Radio 4 www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05xgm2b

READ

Historical fiction novel *Rani* by Jaishree Misra (Penguin Books India, 2007)

INDIA'S OTHER WARRIOR QUEEN

Less well remembered than Rani Lakshmibai is another queen-turned-warrior, Begum Hazrat Mahal, the youngest wife of the last Nawab of Oudh who started her life in the harem as a concubine.

It is almost certainly the case that Hazrat Mahal's fight against the British was mostly on behalf of her son, Birjis Qadr, whom she wanted to see crowned as the next Nawab of Oudh. But this was not to be as Oudh was annexed to British India in 1856, its vast riches impounded by the British and Hazrat Mahal's husband exiled to Calcutta.

When the mutiny broke out, the opportunity to regain the throne on behalf of her son was one that Hazrat Mahal was quick to grasp. She sold her jewellery in order to raise an army and enthusiastically joined the rebellion. *The Times* war correspondent William Howard Russell wrote of her in his 'My Indian Mutiny Diary' that "This Begam exhibits great energy and ability. She has excited all Oudh to take up the interests of her son, and the chiefs have sworn to be faithful to him. The Begum declares undying war against us." When the British were besieged in their fortified residency, Hazrat Mahal took control of Oudh, ruling for a few brief months as regent.

With the arrival of the British Army, the rebels' defeat became gradually inevitable. Hazrat Mahal slipped out of Lucknow and made her way to the Himalayan forests in the north, finally seeking refuge in Nepal. For 16 years she lived in Kathmandu. When she died on 7 April 1879, she had been reduced to such a state of penury that there was reportedly not even money left for a grave.



Queen-turned-warrior Begum Hazrat Mahal also fought against British rule



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10 Quirky Royal Traditions

With the much-anticipated return of *The Crown* on Netflix, **Emma Slattery Williams** shares some unusual customs of the British Royal Family – past and present

The Ceremony of the Keys ends at exactly 10pm with the Chief Yeoman Warder raising his Tudor bonnet and saluting the Queen's Guard



CEREMONY OF THE KEYS

The Tower of London is an icon of British history, and also the location of what is possibly the oldest military ceremony in the world. Every evening at precisely 9.53pm, the Chief Yeoman Warder of the Tower emerges from the Byward Tower carrying a lantern in one hand and the Queen's keys in the other. An escort is formed and they all march to the outer gates and lock-up. At one point, a sentry challenges the group with the words, "Halt! Who comes there?", to which the Chief Yeoman Warder announces that he carries the Queen's keys and is permitted to pass. The ceremony is believed to date back 700 years, to the reign of Edward III, who is said to have been furious when he discovered he was able to walk into the Tower at night, completely unchallenged. He demanded the gates be locked at sunset every night. Supposedly the only time the locking ceremony hasn't taken place is when a bomb fell on the Tower during World War II.



DID YOU KNOW?

Samuel Johnson, the great compiler of the dictionary, suffered from scrofula while a toddler, so was taken to London to receive the royal touch from Queen Anne in 1712.



Edward the Confessor was the first English monarch with supposed healing powers

THE ROYAL TOUCH

Monarchs have long been held to be a divine link between God and the people, but the rulers of medieval England and France thought they could prove the fact with what they deemed to be their healing powers. The touch of a king or queen was believed to cure the infectious disease scrofula, also known as the 'king's evil' (a form of tuberculosis). The healing custom began in England with Edward the Confessor and continued for centuries, with grand ceremonies held for the royal laying of hands. Later monarchs chose to present the afflicted with a special coin, which had received the royal touch and could be worn as an amulet. Charles II is thought to have touched more than 90,000 suffering subjects; Queen Anne was the last royal healer in England before George I banned the practice in the 18th century, claiming that it was nothing but a Catholic superstition.

SWAN UPPING

The British Crown owns all unmarked mute swans in open water, so it is deemed necessary to carry out an annual census, a process known as Swan Upping and thought to date back to at least the 12th century. Swans were once prized as food for banquets, so would be counted, collected and divided between the Crown and the landowners to whom ownership could be awarded. By the 18th-century, swans were no longer being served up on royal dinner plates, but the Swan Upping continues. Dressed in their unique scarlet uniforms, swan uppers row up a 79-mile stretch of the River Thames in skiffs, catching all the swans. These are weighed, checked for disease and injuries, and ringed with identification numbers.



Elizabeth II attended the Swan Upping in 2009 in her official position as 'Seigneur of the Swans'

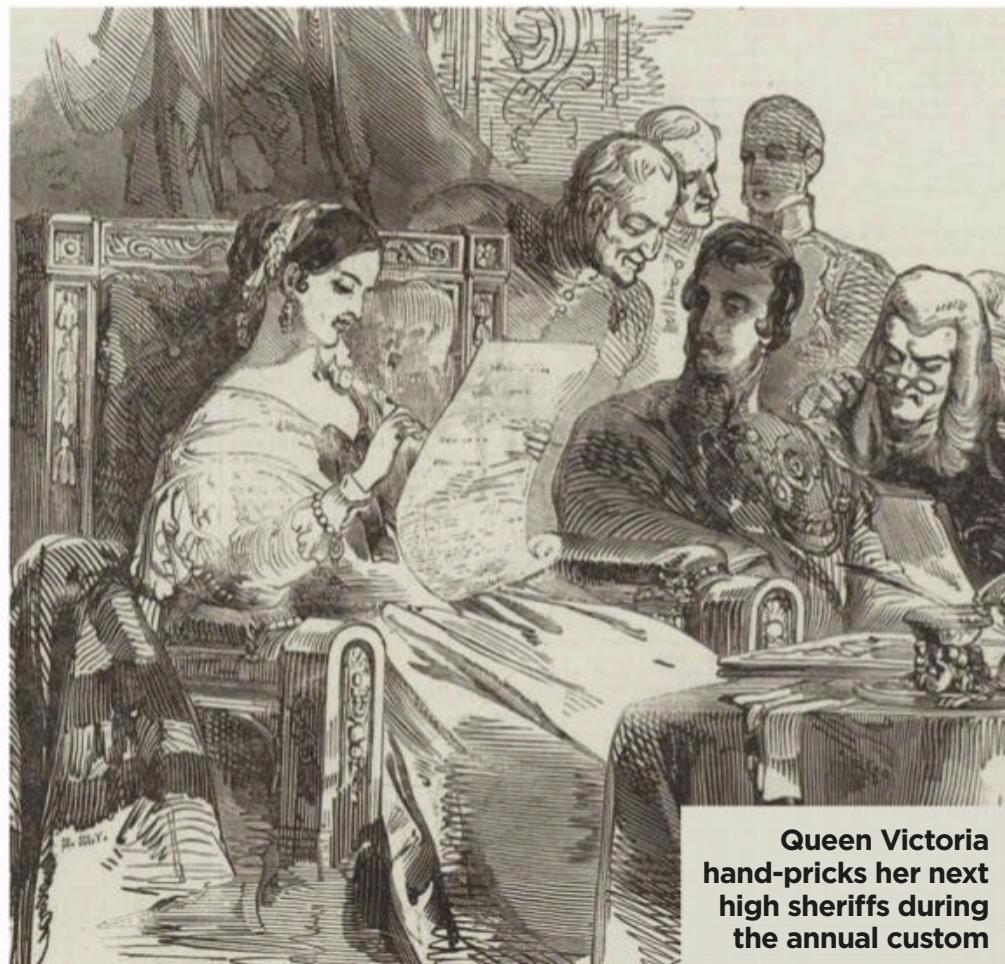


Yeomen of the Guard search the Houses of Parliament for explosives before the monarch arrives

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Crown and Parliament have had, to say the least, a rocky relationship over the centuries. One custom, performed during the State Opening of Parliament, reflects one of the most troubled of events in their history when, in 1649, at the height of the British Civil Wars, Charles I was tried for treason and eventually beheaded. Since that period, an MP is ceremonially taken 'hostage' on the state opening of Parliament until the monarch is safely returned from giving their speech. It's unlikely that a modern-day 'hostage' suffers much more than a cup of tea or quick tour, however. As a further reminder of this bloody era, a copy of Charles I's death warrant is displayed in the room in which the monarch prepares for the opening.

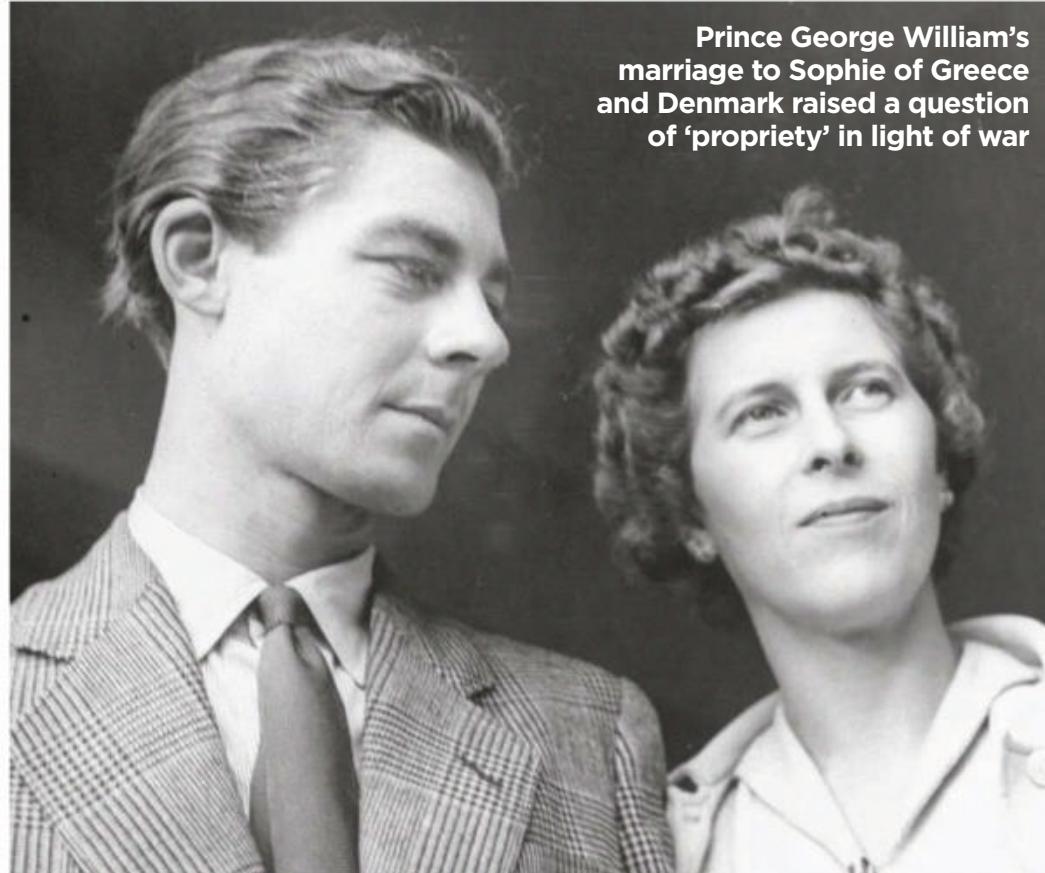
Before each new parliamentary session, another ceremonial tradition takes place: a search. It's to make sure there will be no repeat of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.



Queen Victoria hand-pricks her next high sheriffs during the annual custom

PRICKING CEREMONY

Despite a wealth of technology at their fingertips, the monarch still uses a hands-on method to appoint the high sheriffs. The oldest secular office in Britain, these were once powerful officials who represented the Crown's interest in local districts, able to preside over courts and raise military forces. Today, it is a purely ceremonial role. When appointing the title, the monarch gives royal assent by pricking the parchment by the name of the chosen sheriff with a bodkin or needle. There is a story that the practice began when Elizabeth I was asked to make her selection while embroidering. The High Sheriffs dispute this, however, as there is evidence of 'pricking' from a Sheriff's Roll that predates Elizabeth I.



Prince George William's marriage to Sophie of Greece and Denmark raised a question of 'propriety' in light of war

THE WATERLOO CEREMONY

A fitting gift from a grateful nation was needed for the Duke of Wellington after his victory at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, which finally brought an end to the Napoleonic Wars. He was given the opulent stately home of Stratfield Saye House in Hampshire, and it remains the home of his descendants. In return for the gift, the Dukes of Wellington are still required to pay a symbolic rent. Every year, on the anniversary of the battle, payment is made to the monarch in the form of a French flag. The Duke of Marlborough pays a similar rent for Blenheim Palace.



Stratfield Saye House has been home to the Dukes of Wellington since 1817

DID YOU KNOW?

The Duke of Wellington was also presented with a huge statue of Napoleon, nude and looking like the Roman god of war, Mars. He proudly put it at the foot of the stairs of his London residence, Apsley House.

ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY

They may have a life of luxury and be able to do things many of us could only dream of, but members of the Royal Family do have rules to adhere to that can drastically affect their lives. One of these is that they still need permission from the monarch to marry.

The Royal Marriages Act came into force in 1772, allowing the monarch to veto any marriages that they believe may diminish the status of the family. The Act was brought in by George III after his brother, Prince Henry, made what was deemed an inappropriate alliance with a commoner; the practice remained in place until the 21st century. When permission was asked for Prince George William of Hanover (a kinsman of the British Royal Family) to marry Sophie – the older sister of Philip, fiancé of the future Elizabeth II – in 1946, it was officially withheld due to tensions between Britain and Germany in the aftermath of World War II. In 2013, the Act was replaced by the Succession to the Crown Act, which now only requires the first six in line of succession to receive permission to wed. The Act also removed the long-standing law that anyone who married a Roman Catholic would be disqualified from succeeding the throne.

The Household Cavalry,
the monarch's personal
bodyguard, troops down
the Mall to the palace



TROOPING THE COLOUR

Once a year in June, people flock to Horse Guards Parade in London to witness a colourful, flag-waving tradition of pomp and pageantry that has been taking place for more than 250 years. Every year, on the monarch's official birthday, more than 1,400 troops and 200 horses parade for inspection in Trooping the Colour. The ceremony originates from the need for regimental flags, or colours, to be displayed regularly so that in the chaos of a battlefield, soldiers could still spot and recognise their own men. Trooping the Colour became an annual event during the reign of George IV, though it began much earlier. Elizabeth II has attended every parade during her reign, except in 1955, when the ceremony was cancelled due to a major rail strike.

>



The Royal Family end
the day on the balcony
of Buckingham Palace



DID YOU KNOW?
Today, the Royal Family gathers for Christmas at Sandringham House in Norfolk. They come together to watch the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND WEIGH IN

Christmas is an important time of tradition and customs for many families, and the Royal Family is no different. To honour their German heritage, the royals exchange their gifts on 24 December rather than on Christmas Day – a common practice across Europe. The ritual was brought in by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; the royal pair introduced a number of other Christmas traditions that are now firmly established in Britain, including putting up a tree inside the home and decorating it, and the exchanging of greeting cards.

There is another more unusual custom that, according to some reports, the royals still carry out to this day. Before tucking into their Christmas Day fare, everyone must be weighed on an antique pair of scales and then weighed again after they have finished. The tradition dates back to the early 20th century, when Edward VII is said to have wanted evidence that his guests had been well fed.



THE TWO ROYAL BIRTHDAYS

If palaces and jewels weren't enough, the monarch gets to celebrate two birthdays. So while Queen Elizabeth II's unofficial birthday – which marks the day she was actually born – is on 21 April, her official birthday is usually the second Saturday in June. It is celebrated with the Trooping the Colour parade in London. The tradition of two birthdays began in 1748 with George II – he had been born in November, but as this wasn't the best time of year for outdoor celebrations, he chose a date in the summer instead.

The 1848 publication of this engraving of the royal celebrations led to a frenzy for Christmas trees

GET HOOKED

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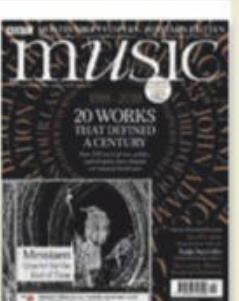
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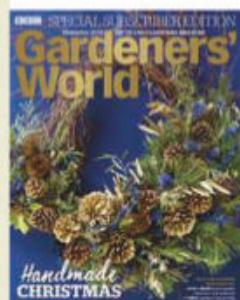


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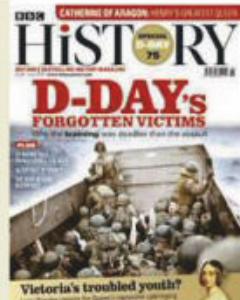


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Reports of unknown aircraft left people questioning who exactly was coming to wreck their lives



NIGEL WATSON
is an author and journalist. His books include *UFOs of the First World War* and *The Origin of UFOs: Phantom Airships 1807 to 1917*

WORLD WAR X-FILES

Unidentified lights in the sky, strange noises on the wind, mysterious figures in the dark. **Nigel Watson** discovers how wartime Britain was gripped by a fear of phantom airships and even stranger things

I have caused inquiries to be made and have ascertained that an unknown aircraft was heard over Sheerness [in Kent] about 7pm on the evening of 14 October 1912. Flares were lighted at Eastchurch, but the aircraft did not make a landing. There is nothing in the evidence to indicate the nationality of the aircraft."

It may sound like a modern-day unidentified flying object (UFO) sighting, yet this was a written reply by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, to Mr Joynson-Hicks, MP for Brentford, who had raised the issue in the House of Commons.

Several witnesses claimed to have seen or heard the strange aircraft, including Lieutenant Fitzmaurice who had been walking from Sheerness Post Office to his lodgings between 6.30pm and 7pm when he had heard an aircraft flying overhead. Other local witnesses also claimed they had heard aircraft motors and seen a bright light flying speedily eastwards.

With no obvious answer as to the identity of the mystery aircraft – and concerned that Sheerness, an important part of Britain's defences and home to a Royal Navy torpedo school, was under threat – the Admiralty's Air Department quickly tried to find an explanation. Zeppelin L1, which had entered German naval service in October 1912, was deemed a possible candidate, as it had flown on the date in question – but it had landed in Berlin at 3.43pm. Another suspect was the civilian Zeppelin Hansa, which had also flown that day, although had reportedly landed at Gotha in central Germany at 4pm.

When the incident was made public, newspaper coverage was extensive, inciting almost paranoiac fear among readers that German Zeppelins were secretly spying on British defences in preparation for a war. A piece in the *Daily Mail* only heightened fears about Britain's vulnerability to air attack, in particular the threat posed by Zeppelins. Indeed, its coverage was so extensive that Count von Zeppelin himself (inventor of the rigid airships), felt compelled to contact the newspaper's editor stating categorically that none of his airships had approached the English coast on the night of 14 October.

Behind closed doors, officials were concerned. Whilst publicly playing the incident down, in private Churchill claimed "there was very little doubt that the airship reported recently to have passed over Sheerness was a German vessel". A subcommittee of the

Committee of Imperial Defence was quickly tasked with preparing a report, in November 1912, that considered what should be done about the so-called menace from the air. It referred to the incident at Sheerness, but also noted several uninvited flights by German airships over Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark. As a consequence, the Aerial Navigation Act of 1911 was quickly amended to give the Secretary of State the power to prohibit aerial navigation over strategic areas of Britain. Anyone found to be conducting aerial espionage was liable to seven years imprisonment.

SPECTRES OF THE SKY

The Sheerness incident began a new wave of airship sightings throughout Britain, peaking on the nights of 17 January and 5 February 1913, over South Wales. Then, on the 21, 25 and 27 February, Yorkshire and Lancashire were awash with sightings, with thousands of people in villages and city centres claiming they had seen something in the sky.

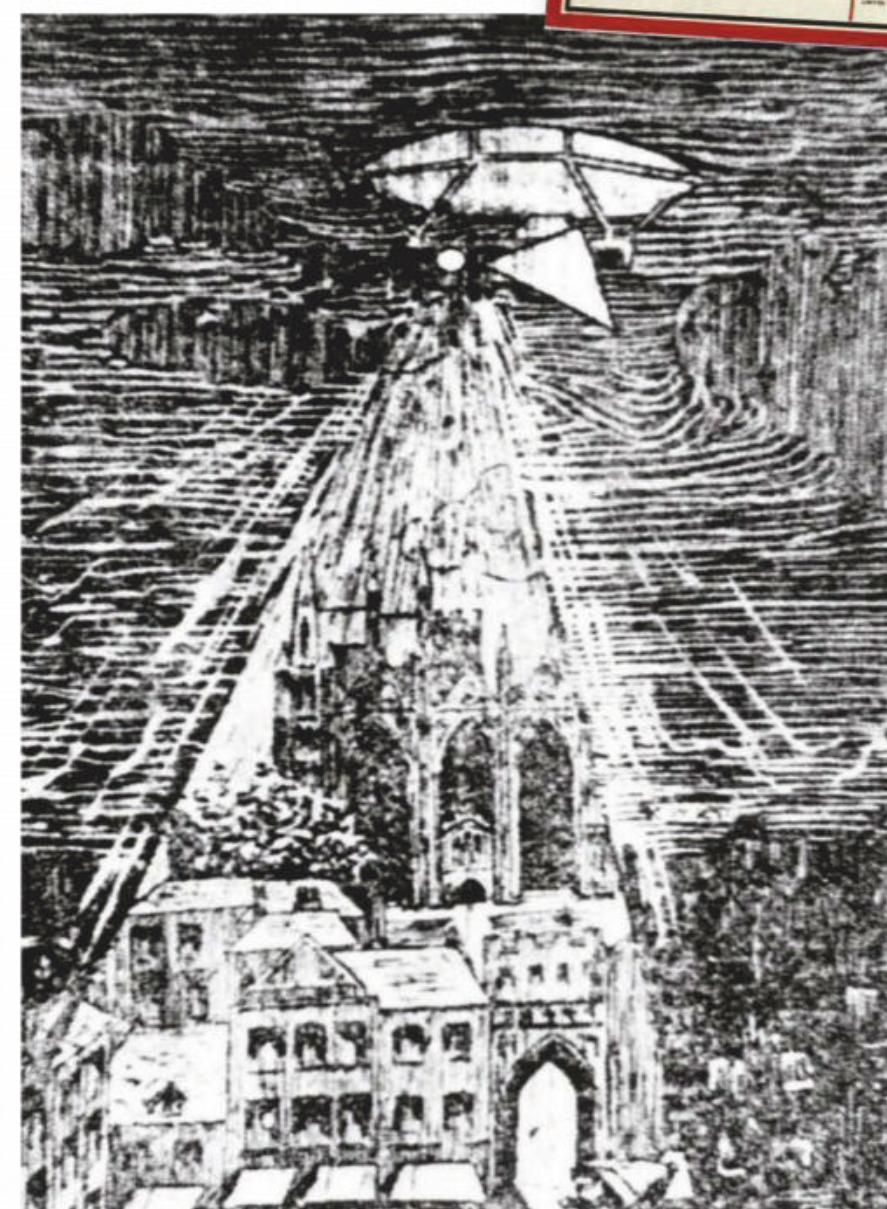
Despite the media coverage and panic of 1912–13, phantom airship scares were nothing new. Between March and May 1909,

PUBLIC WARNING

The public are advised to familiarise themselves with the appearance of British and German Airships and Aeroplanes, so that they may not be alarmed by British aircraft, and may take shelter if German aircraft appear. Should hostile aircraft be seen, take shelter immediately in the nearest available house, preferably in the basement, and remain there until the aircraft have left the vicinity: do not stand about in crowds and do not touch unexploded bombs. In the event of HOSTILE aircraft being seen in country districts, the nearest Naval, Military or Police Authorities should, if possible, be advised immediately by Telephone of the TIME OF APPEARANCE, the DIRECTION OF FLIGHT, and whether the aircraft is an Airship or an Aeroplane.



The government printed notices highlighting the difference between British and German aircraft during WWI



In an earlier echo of Sheerness, one PC Kettle glimpsed a 'phantom airship' over Peterborough in 1909

British newspapers were full of sightings of what were believed to be German Zeppelins, probing the nation with searchlights at night. Many reports came from the east of England, South Wales and even as far away as Ireland.

By early May 1909, there had been so many reports of lights in the sky and the whirring sounds of large and fast-moving airships in East Anglia that a *Daily Express* reporter toured the roads around Peterborough in search of the aircraft and its base; he found many other motorists taking to the roads at night on the same mission.

There was even a close encounter near the summit of Caerphilly Mountain, South Wales, when a Punch and Judy showman named Mr C Lethbridge claimed he had seen two 'German' men leap into the basket of a balloon and quickly fly away. Shortly before his encounter, at 11pm, residents in Salisbury Road, Cardiff, had reported seeing an airship above them, while at 1.15am workers at the Queen Alexandra

RE SUSPECTED AIRCRAFT seen or heard in CUMBERLAND.

When seen or heard. Date & hour.	By whom.	Where.	Remarks.
5th Aug. 1914 2.45 a.m.	John Murray, & Geo. Paulmer, Wager Bailiffs.	River Eden, Cargo Beck Foot, near Carlisle.	Aeroplane heard (not seen). Appeared to follow course of river. East to West.
10th Aug. 1914 4 a.m.	Wilson Southward, Farmer.	Crossdale, Ennerdale.	Heard buzzing noise and saw bright light from his bed- room window; looked out and saw what he took to be an aeroplane travelling North.
11th Aug. 1914 10.40 p.m.	Police Sgt Horn.	Egremont.	Aircraft heard (not seen except white speck) outline of craft not observed. Appeared to be moving rapidly towards Solway.
night of 13th Aug. 1914.	Farmer.	Hesket-new-Market.	Reported by Major Salkeld that the farmer saw 3 or 4 distinct flashes such as would be seen from a search- light.
14th Aug. 1914 12.10 a.m.	Police Sgt Horn and P.C. Nelson.	Egremont.	Moving light seen (occasional flare lights); lights rose and fell above horizon over Solway.
14th Aug. 1914 2.30 a.m.	P.C. Kirkbride.	Egremont.	Red, green, and white lights seen moving south, but too far distant to observe outline of aeroplane.
14th Aug. 1914 between 10 & 11 p.m.	Chief Constable Carlisle City.	Stanwix, Carlisle.	Saw strange light. Thought it might be from a balloon as it was for most part stationary, and light went out and in.

ABOVE: Several sightings of 'suspected aircraft' were reported in Cumberland in August 1914

LEFT: Lit by two spotlights on the ground, this Zeppelin has taken on a distinctly ethereal guise



"WORKERS CLAIMED TO HAVE SPOTTED A CIGAR-SHAPED 'BOAT' IN THE SKY"

Dock, Cardiff, claimed to have spotted a cigar-shaped 'boat' in the sky, travelling at high speed. It had reportedly carried two lights, flew from the northeast, had curved over Cardiff and then flown south west over the Bristol channel.

The following day, Mr Lethbridge, who was described as "an elderly man, of quiet demeanour, [who] did not strike one as given to romancing", took reporters to the scene of the incident where news clippings were found scattered around a 54ft-long gouge in the hard ground, along with recently trampled grass.

Several people came forward with possible explanations for the sightings,

among them Percival Spencer, a well-known aeronaut and airship constructor, who admitted that he had sold several 25ft-long model airships. Each used a small lamp to generate the heat required to keep them aloft, which Spencer believed could explain why people always reported seeing a 'searchlight' coming from the airship. He had also sold five large airships capable of carrying people, though none of these were attributed to Lethbridge's sighting.

Elsewhere, a Dr MB Boyd came forward to say that he had spent eight years perfecting an airship that was 120 feet long and capable of travelling 1,000

miles non-stop. It carried two wings, a cabin that could carry three crew, with three sets of wheels that enabled it to be used like a motor car on the ground. The craft, he said, was kept in a secret shed only one hour's drive from London.

Despite feasible explanations, airship sightings continued, as did rumours of foreign spies roaming Britain. Two days before Mr Lethbridge's experience, a stockbroker's clerk noted that he had seen five 'foreigners' on Caerphilly Mountain. They had, he claimed, ridden from spot to spot in two carriages photographing and surveying the area. When they had finished their work, at midday on 16 May, one of the carriages went in the direction of Llanishen while the other took the road to Cardiff.

Meanwhile, rumours were spreading at Grimsby, on the east coast, that foreign spies had stolen codebooks from the Admiralty wireless station, and three Germans had been seen photographing the docks. Another story claimed the German Army had commandeered two steamers at Hamburg, loaded them with soldiers before crossing the North Sea and then steamed up the Humber before returning to Hamburg.

A FEAR MADE REAL

Zeppelin fear was pronounced in the build-up to World War I, but when war broke out in 1914 and attacks from the air became a literal threat, the War Office began receiving even more reports of unidentified aircraft in the skies above Britain. Enemy airship and aeroplane sightings were so prevalent in the Lake District, that the Cumberland and Westmorland Yeomanry at Penrith were sent to Ambleside, Keswick and Wigton to search for the phantom aviator. Boy Scouts were enlisted to guard various water supplies in the area, while chains of runners were organised to keep everyone in contact.



THE RED BARON SHOOTS DOWN A FLYING SAUCER

In 1999, German Air Force ace Peter Waitzrik sensationally revealed that the notorious German pilot Manfred von Richthofen (known as the Red Baron) had shot a UFO out of a clear, blue sky whilst on an early morning mission over Western Belgium in the spring of 1917. Waitzrik claimed he had been flying with the Baron when they suddenly saw an object resembling an upside-down, silver-coloured, 136ft-diameter saucer. The pilots assumed it was a new aircraft sent up by the US and without any hesitation

the Baron opened fire on it.

The craft, he said, fell like a rock and crashed into a forest. Looking down they saw two bruised and battered occupants get out of the aircraft and run away. Waitzrik stated that the pair were told never to mention the incident again, and it was not until flying saucers hit the headlines in the late 1940s that he finally concluded the escaping occupants they had observed were aliens rather than American airmen.



LEFT: Early in the war, illustrated newspaper *The Graphic* queried whether Zeppelins were a genuine danger or a load of hot air

ABOVE: Just a few days later, Great Yarmouth was laid to waste by a nighttime airship raid

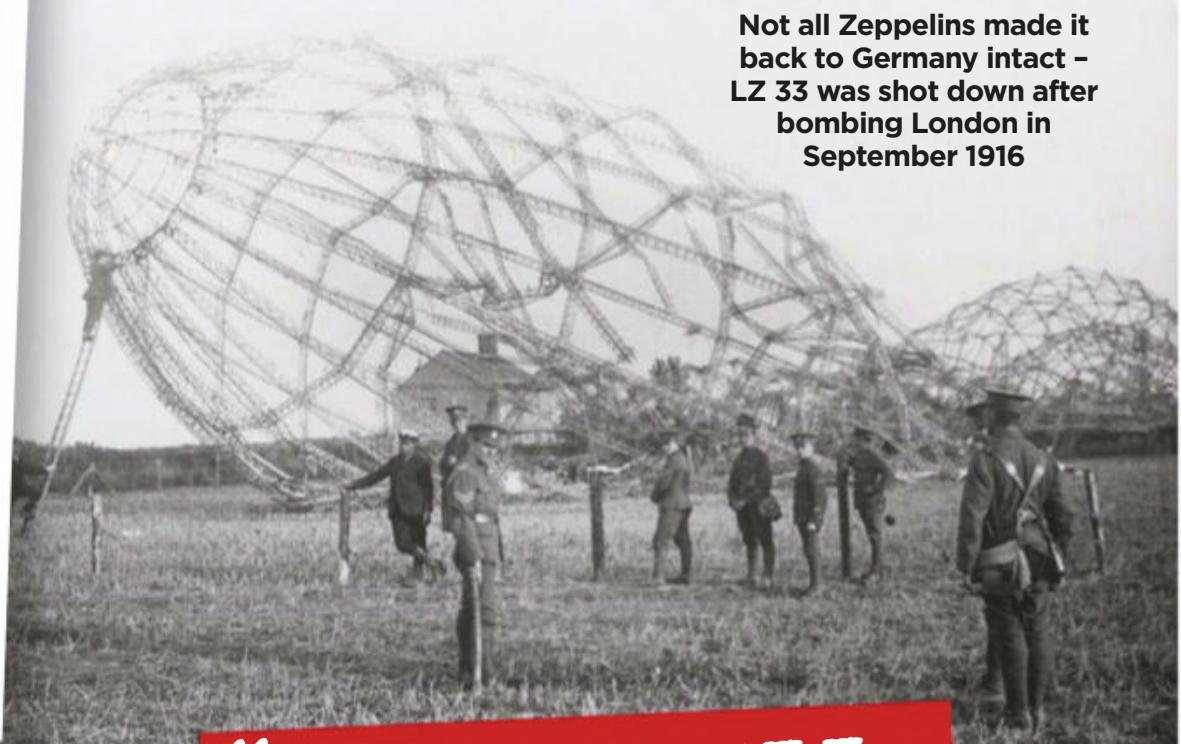
Many people also suspected that Zeppelin raids were linked with motor cars, which were suspected of guiding the airships to their targets at night. The claim was taken seriously and in January 1915 – just days after Germany's L3 and L4 Zeppelins had bombed Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn – the Admiralty sent cars to search for a motor vehicle carrying lights, which was believed to be associated with a Zeppelin recently sighted near Oxted in Surrey.

By September 1915 yet more rumours were circulating. This time, a Zeppelin was said to have crash-landed on Hampstead Heath with well-known aviator Claude Grahame-White said (falsely as it turned out) to have been killed or injured in the subsequent hunt for the aircraft. Stories of German spies were rife, and nearly every village in Kent knew of a nearby



Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron, was one of Germany's top fighter aces of WWI, with 80 kills credited to him

The whole episode provides a powerful image of the fearless Red Baron fighting off a potential alien invasion worthy of any B-movie. However, it was soon discovered that Peter Waitzrik was an invented character and the story was a hoax.



Not all Zeppelins made it back to Germany intact - LZ 33 was shot down after bombing London in September 1916

"AFTER WWII, WINGLESS 'GHOST ROCKETS' WERE SEEN OVER SCANDINAVIA"

village that had witnessed the shooting down of a Zeppelin.

Whatever their source or reason, such rumours proved a nuisance to the war effort. Munition factories lost output because they had to extinguish their lights every time there was even the possibility of an air raid, and communications became congested with false stories. As a consequence, a handy guide for investigators was produced, listing the types of lights that could be mistaken for enemy aircraft and signals, such as planets, meteors, flares and distant shell bursts.

FLASH FORWARD

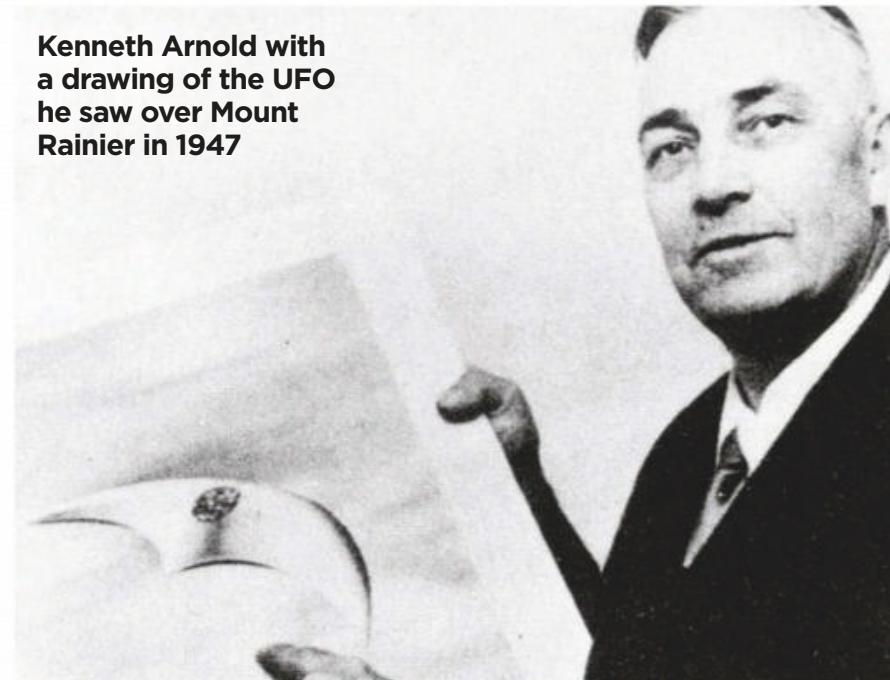
Perhaps unsurprisingly, the issue of mystery aircraft re-emerged in World War II, when RAF pilots began reporting unusual aerial activities over Europe. This so-called 'pyrotechnic activity' was believed to have been caused by new types of German anti-aircraft shells: RAF pilots called them 'The Light' or 'The Thing' and when US pilots joined the war they named them 'Foo Fighters.'

After the war so-called 'ghost rockets' – long, metallic wingless objects – were seen over Scandinavia, with as many as 1,000 sightings in 1946. Bright meteors were mooted by some as being the cause, while others believed the objects to be modified V-2 rockets launched by the Soviets. British officials monitored the situation but Sweden wanted its involvement kept secret and low-key so as not to undermine the country's neutral status. A secret

committee formed by the Swedish government could not find, despite extensive effort, any solid evidence for rocket projectiles and put the sightings down to misidentifications and public imagination.

As the ghost rocket scare faded away the term 'flying saucer' was coined after a pilot named Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine objects flying over Mount Rainier in Washington – "like a saucer skipping on water" – in June 1947. Arnold was not alone. At the height of the Cold War – between 1947–69 – numerous US government agencies, including the FBI and CIA, investigated UFO sightings. The US Air Force ran Project Sign, which was inclined to think UFOs might be of extraterrestrial origin, and this was followed by the more sceptical Project

Kenneth Arnold with a drawing of the UFO he saw over Mount Rainier in 1947



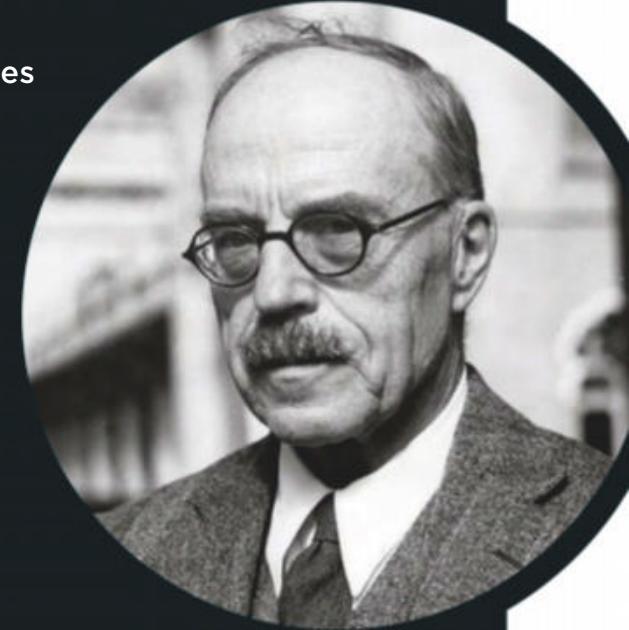
THE FLYING SAUCER WORKING PARTY

Flying saucer reports dominated the headlines in 1952 so much that they prompted Winston Churchill (now the Prime Minister) to dash off a memo to his advisors asking: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth?"

Churchill's scientific advisor during World War II, Sir Henry Tizard, had already researched the subject in August 1950 after a similar spate of sightings and set about forming a 'Flying Saucer Working Party', composed of five representatives from the technical Intelligence branches of the armed forces.

After sifting through hundreds of cases they published a secret six-page report in June 1951 that highlighted three reports by RAF pilots as being the most puzzling. Rather than being evidence of alien craft in our skies the group thought there was probably some reasonable, earthly explanation for them. Likewise, the rest of the sightings they studied were explained away as being mistaken observations of man-made, natural, meteorological or astronomical phenomena or downright delusions and hoaxes.

The group concluded that UFOs were entirely subjective and that the media had helped cause peaks of sightings. It was their view that without any scientific evidence, it was not worth investigating the matter any further.



Sir Henry Tizard said that reports of UFOs should not be dismissed without proper study

Grudge until it was replaced by Project Blue Book in March 1952. Project Blue Book was the longest-running official US government inquiry into UFOs and before it was disbanded in 1969 it received 12,500 UFO sighting reports, 701 of which it labelled 'unidentified'. ◎

GET HOOKED



READ

UFOs of the First World War by Nigel Watson
(The History Press, 2015)

WATCH

BBC One A three-part adaptation of HG Wells' *The War of the Worlds* is due to air on BBC One this autumn

LISTEN

BBC Listen to stories about the Zeppelin raids of WWI on the BBC's World War One At Home website.
www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01zd21p

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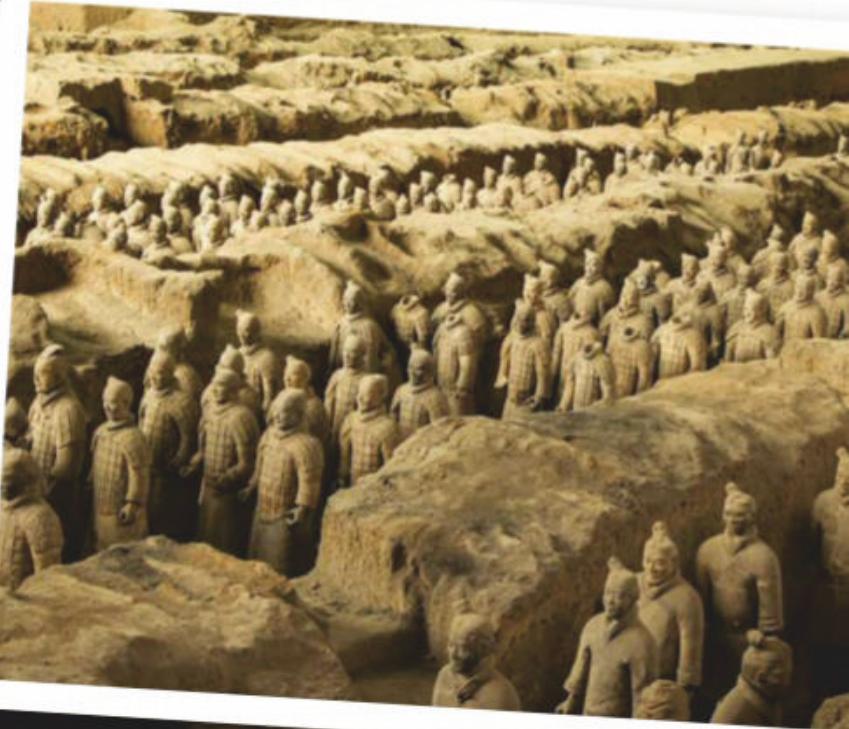
Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



COLOUR ME SURPRISED

Four minutes is all it takes for the rich, original pigments to flake away in the dry climate of Shaanxi Province



BEIGE BATTALION

The pits containing the Terracotta Army are thought to hold at least 8,000 soldiers, plus chariots and horses

WHAT WERE THE TERRACOTTA WARRIORS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE?



The long lines of clay soldiers have a mournful look in their uniform reddish-grey-brown hue, rather fittingly as they stand in a tomb. Yet they originally kept their watch – protecting the first emperor of unified China, Qin Shi Huang, in the afterlife – with a lot more colour in their cheeks.

The Terracotta Warriors were elaborately decorated with a variety of mineral-based paints, with every inch covered in reds, greens, pinks, browns, whites, blacks, and the long-lost colours

of Han purple and Han blue. For some 2,200 years, these pigments were able to survive in the cool and humid underground tomb. Then, in 1974, the Terracotta Warriors were discovered.

Within 15 seconds of being exposed to air, the paints curl, flake and fade, and it takes just four minutes for the colours to be lost. When a new warrior is unearthed from the site in Shaanxi Province in central China, they have to be coated in a special plastic to have any hope of keeping their true colours.

DID YOU KNOW?

ELIXIR OF MORTALITY
Qin Shi Huang – the emperor who ordered the mustering of the Terracotta Warriors – may have died, rather ironically, as a result of his obsession to live forever. He may have drank mercury believing it to be the elixir of immortality.

DRESSED BY A QUEEN
Jane the Fool enjoyed a handsome wardrobe and shoe collection – all paid for at Mary's expense



WERE THERE ANY FEMALE JESTERS?

Target This painting at Hampton Court Palace shows Henry VIII with his son Edward, beloved lost wife Jane Seymour and daughters Mary and Elizabeth. On the far ends are two other figures: his jester Will Somer and a woman, Jane the Fool.

While jesters and fools tended to be men, there were women like Jane. She lived at court as fool to Henry's last wife Catherine Parr and then Mary I. Rather than being a skilled entertainer – like another woman

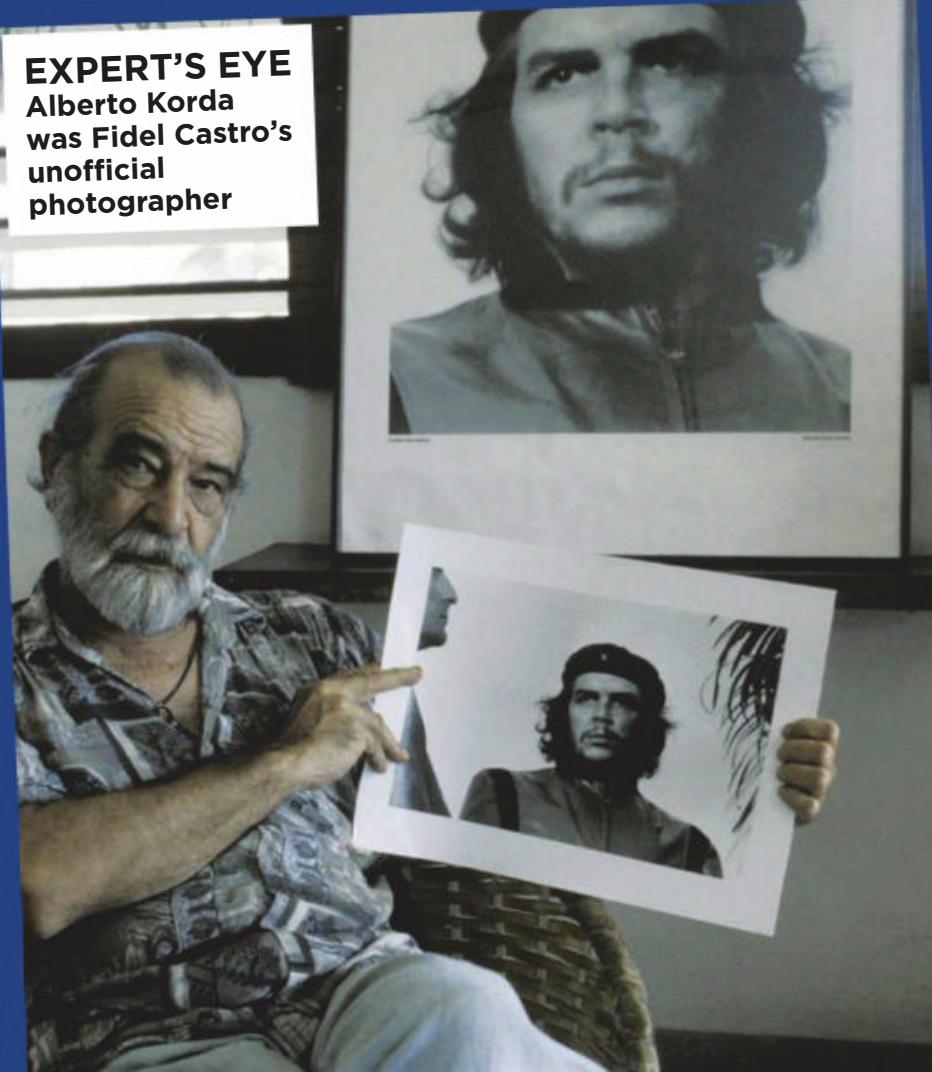
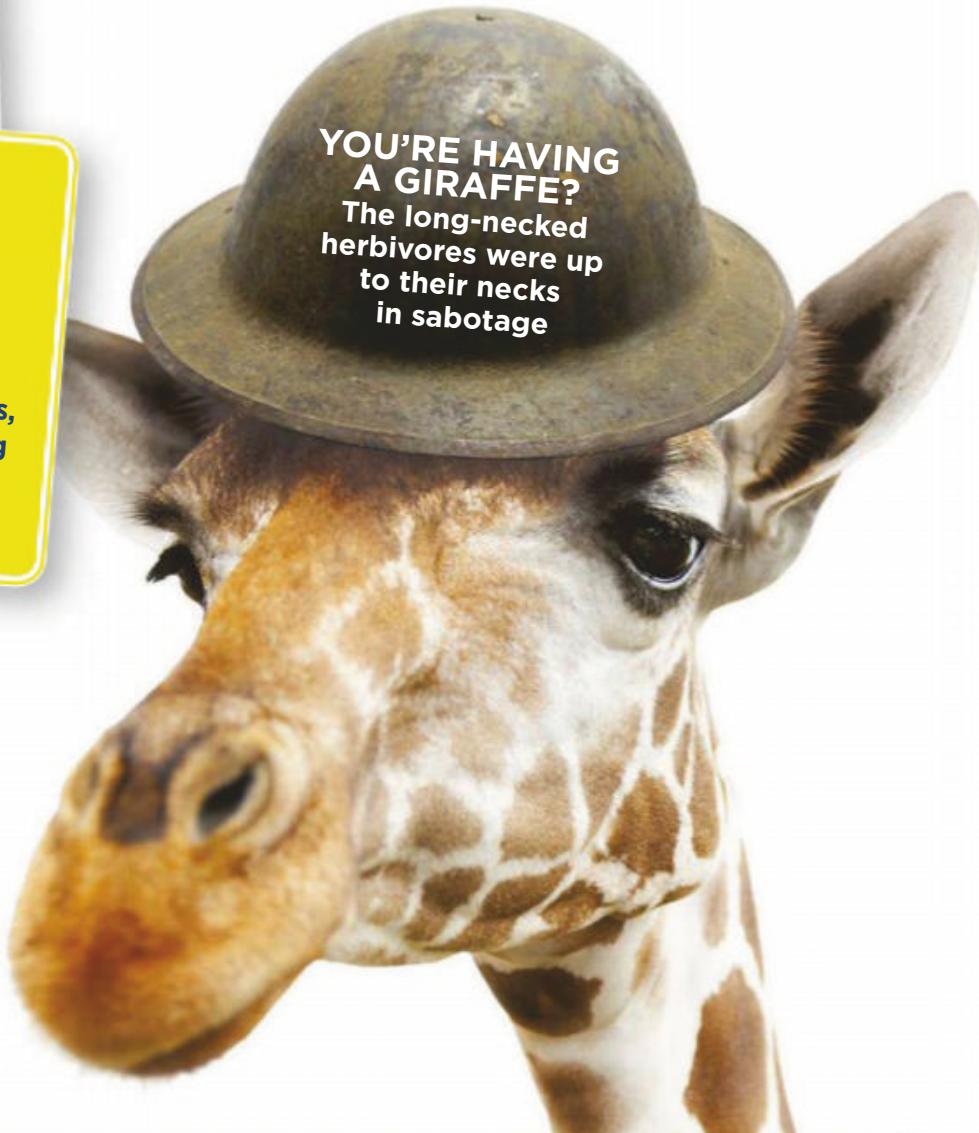
hired by Mary, Lucretia the Tumbler (no guesses what her speciality was) – Jane was probably a 'natural fool' – someone with what today we would class as having a learning disability. 'Natural fools' were traditionally objects of laughter, derision and even fear; that said, it seems Mary was genuinely fond of Jane, showering her with clothes and shoes, according to lists of her expenses.

ALAMY X3, GETTY IMAGES X4

37
The length, in metres, of the longest Viking longship found, dubbed Roskilde 6.

How did giraffes affect World War I?

Target Millions of animals were involved in World War I, such as horses, dogs and pigeons – and, if *Blackadder*'s sketch of enemy positions can be believed, scores of elephants on the Western Front. The war was being waged in Africa too, where giraffes played a less-than-useful role for the British. They would inadvertently bring down signalling cables running through the treetops. A Lieutenant Colonel Hawtree reported from Lindi (modern-day Tanzania) on 8 June 1917 that yet more lines had been snagged by giraffes. To counteract the long-necked menaces, an order had to be issued to ensure cables were no less than 25 feet off the ground.



EXPERT'S EYE
Alberto Korda was Fidel Castro's unofficial photographer

WHO TOOK THE PHOTO OF CHE GUEVARA?

Target Alberto Korda knew he had taken something special when he snapped that now-ubiquitous image of Che Guevara. His editor didn't agree. On 5 March 1960, the Cuban photojournalist was covering a speech by Fidel Castro when the beret-wearing revolutionary Guevara appeared. Korda was struck by his expression – "pissed off and pained", he said – and took the shot.

His newspaper, *Revolucion*, didn't print it, however, so he hung the photo – 'Guerrilero Heroico', or Heroic Guerilla – in his studio. There it stayed until he allowed it to be used for the cover of a reissue of Guevara's book in 1967. That was the year Guevara died. The photo captured the popular imagination of the counterculture 1960s and quickly became – much to Guevara's dismay, it can be assumed – an ironic commercial phenomenon.

WHAT WAS FOUND AT SUTTON HOO?



Hear the name Sutton Hoo and chances are the first image that comes to mind is the helmet, an icon of early medieval England, but it was just one of hundreds of artefacts from this remarkable discovery.

In 1939, self-taught archaeologist Basil Brown was excavating the mounds in a field at Sutton, Suffolk – having been hired by the landowner, Edith Pretty – when he stumbled upon a seventh-century ship burial. While the ship had rotted away, a ghostly imprint of the hull had been left in the earth with a burial chamber in the centre. This may sound all a bit Viking, but it was actually for an East-Anglian king, possibly Raedwald, as he had

converted to Christianity and there were Christian features in the grave. This one mound among the dozens at Sutton Hoo changed what knew of seventh-century England.

There were 263 finds in the 27-metre ship burial, including precious metals, gems, iron, wood, bone and textiles. There were items from as far as the Byzantine Empire and Middle East, buckles and clasps of exquisite artistic skill, a sword and scabbard, a lyre, and of course the helmet, although it was found shattered. Yet shortly after the discovery, World War II broke out and the priceless artefacts were soon underground again – this time in a Tube tunnel in London.



IRON MAIDEN

Joan was dispatched to besieged Orleans, her arrival heralding a change in French fortunes

WHY DID PEOPLE LISTEN TO JOAN OF ARC?



Before she was a heroine, martyr and saint, Joan of Arc was an illiterate young girl from a farming family. Why would Charles, the disinherited Dauphin, pay attention to her claims of having divine visions saying she was destined to drive the English from France and put him on the throne?

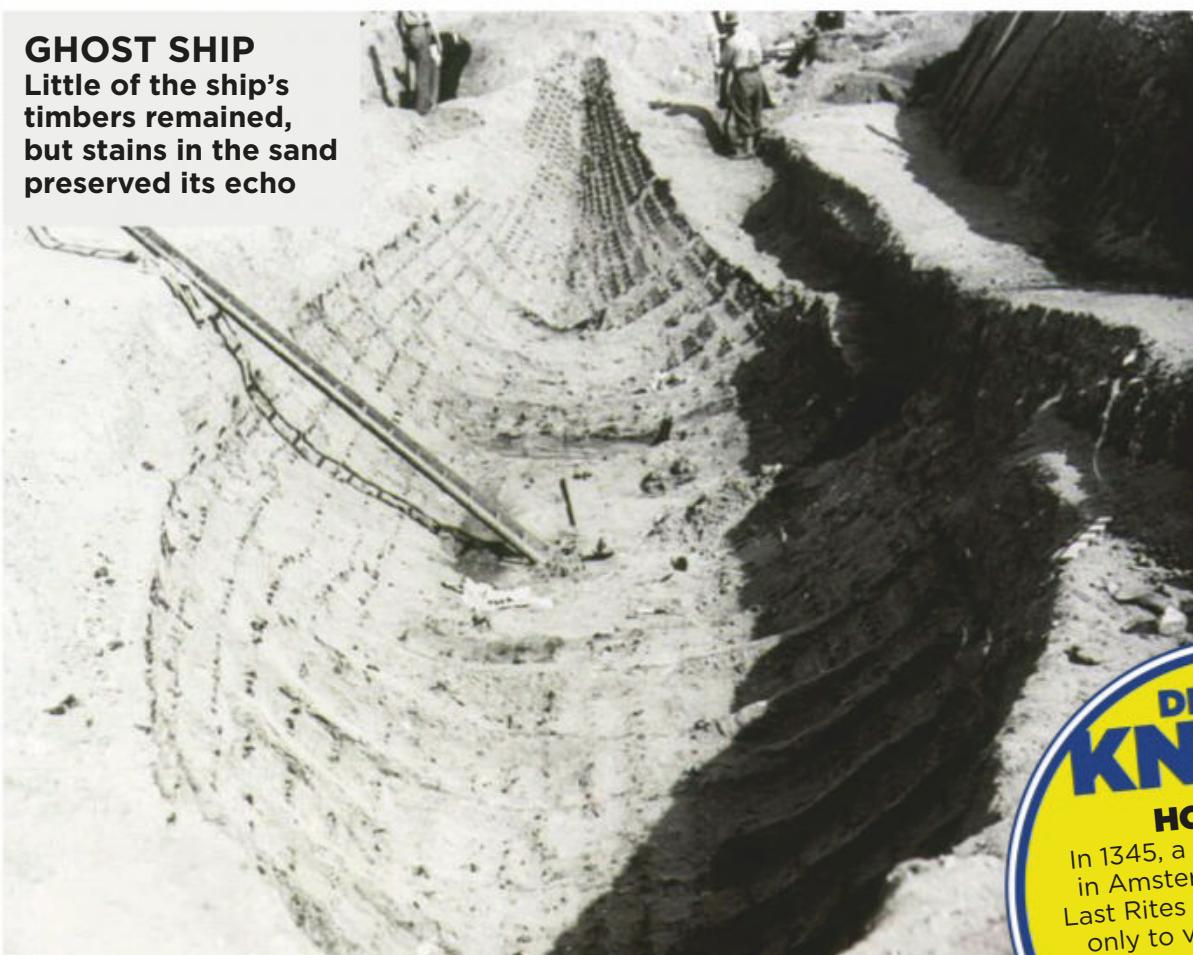
For one, he was desperate for deliverance. With the country split by factions and close to losing the war against England, he had nothing to lose. The importance of religion in 15th-century France cannot be overstated too. Joan was claiming to have spoken with three saints and said she could prove she communicated with God. When she had asked the captain of her local garrison for an escort to see Charles, she impressed him by predicting the result of a battle, the news of which arrived days later.

She travelled to Charles's court at Chinon, where he gave her a test by hiding among his courtiers to see whether she could identify him. She did so immediately.

For weeks afterwards, Joan was quizzed by theologians and scholars, who concluded that she was "of irreproachable life, a good Christian, possessed of the virtues of humility, honesty and simplicity". That was enough for Charles.

GHOST SHIP

Little of the ship's timbers remained, but stains in the sand preserved its echo



WHAT WAS A 'GLYM JACK'?

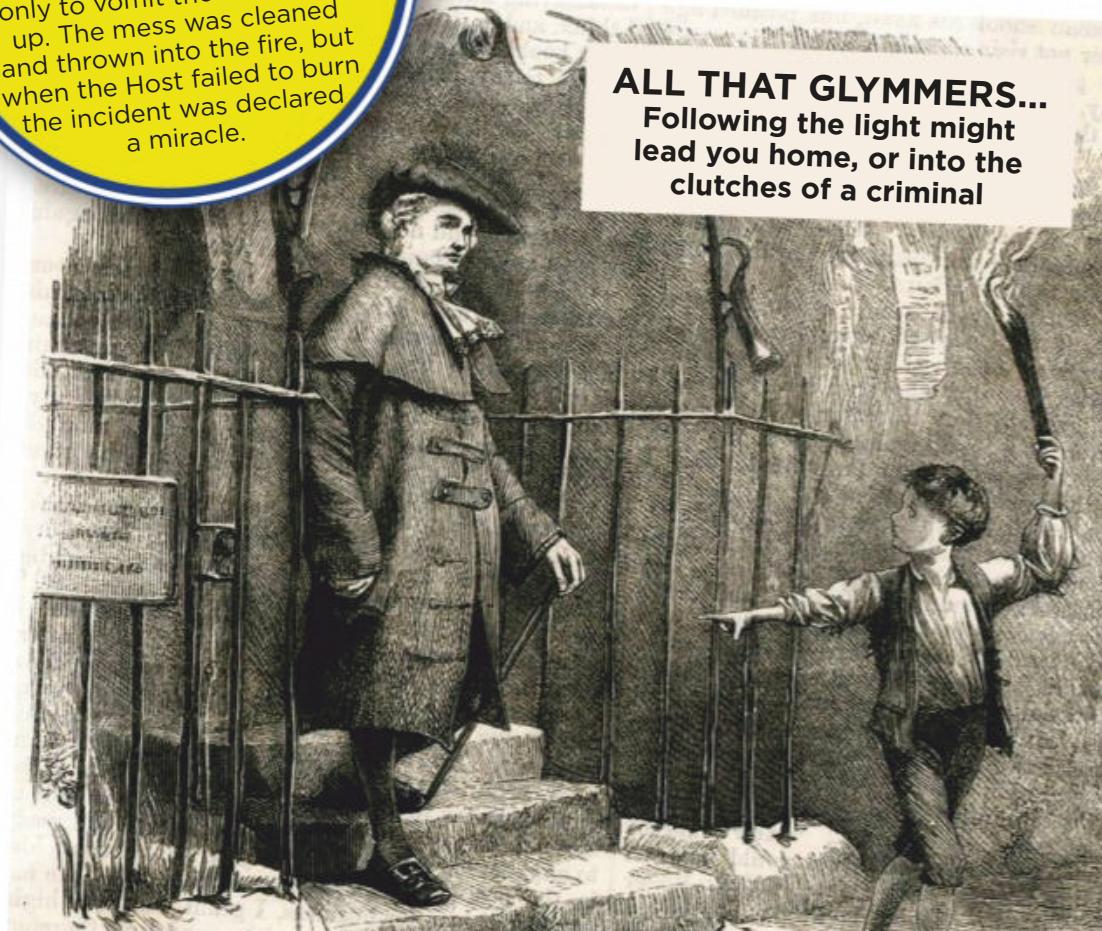


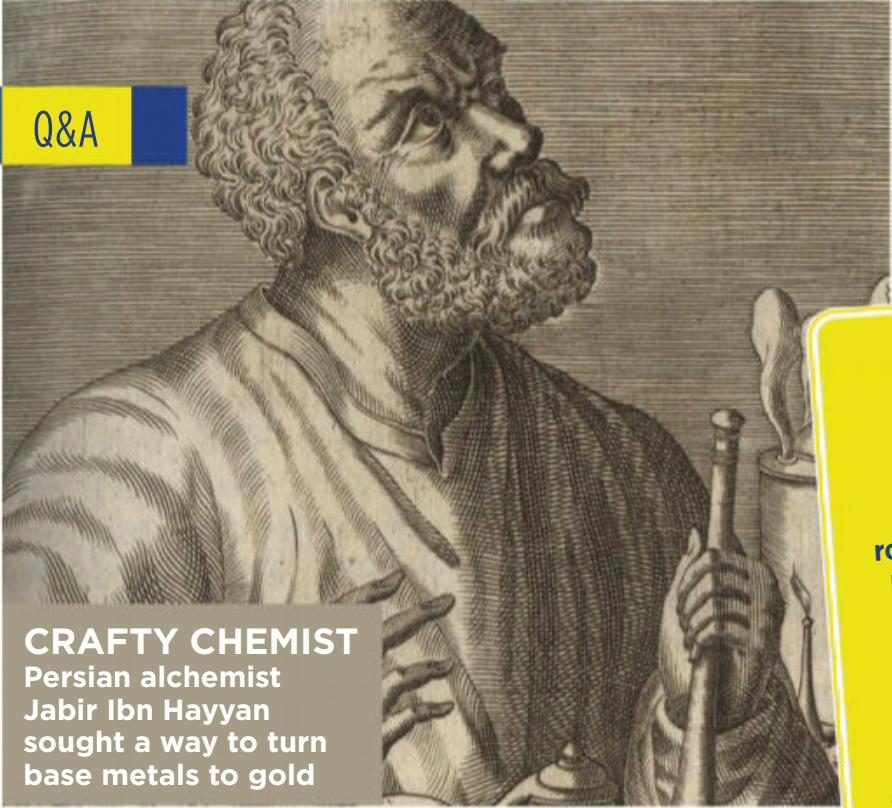
In the days before electric lighting, the streets of British cities like London were completely dark at night, and therefore dangerous. Boys would be paid to carry a flaming torch ahead of walkers as a door-to-door service to light the way. These 'link boys' became so prolific that they merited mention by Shakespeare, Samuel Pepys and Charles Dickens. In Victorian times, they became known as glym jacks. Their motives weren't always innocent, however. They often led their unwitting, paying customers to dark alleys or a rough neighbourhood, where a gang of thieves waited to relieve them of their belongings.



HOLY HURL
In 1345, a dying Catholic man in Amsterdam was given the Last Rites and Holy Sacrament, only to vomit the Host back up. The mess was cleaned up and thrown into the fire, but when the Host failed to burn the incident was declared a miracle.

ALL THAT GLYMMERS...
Following the light might lead you home, or into the clutches of a criminal





CRAFTY CHEMIST
Persian alchemist
Jaber ibn Hayyan
sought a way to turn
base metals to gold

Where does the **Philosopher's Stone** come from?

Target There is a little-known book called *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (ignoring the fact that in the US, the title was changed to *Sorceror's Stone*), which mentions a substance that can turn base metals into gold and grant immortality, and a wizard who had mastered its use, one Nicolas Flamel. JK Rowling didn't pluck this name out of thin air. Flamel was a French manuscript seller in the 14th century, who gained a reputation long after his death – if he died at all, of course – for translating an ancient book on alchemy and allegedly perfecting the Philosopher's Stone.

There is no knowing when this term was first used. Throughout history, scholars were understandably intrigued by a substance that made you rich and immortal, so it has been known by countless names. But it was Arab alchemists such as Jaber ibn Hayyan of the Middle Ages that fuelled the medieval hunt for the stone, and like Atlantis, the Fountain of Youth and the Holy Grail, our fascination hasn't gone away.

110

The number of rounds in the longest boxing match ever, fought on 6 April 1893 between Americans Andy Bowen and Jack Burke. After more than seven hours, the referee called the bout a 'no contest'.

WHO WERE THE LAST PEOPLE TO BE HANGED IN BRITAIN?

Target By the 1960s, the use of hanging had been dropping, as it were, so that most of those sentenced to death received reprieves. Only three hangings took place in 1963 and none the following year – until Gwynne Evans and Peter Allen.

The petty criminals had driven from Preston to the Cumbria home of John West on 7 April 1964 – in a stolen car and with Allen's wife and two children in the backseat – intending to rob West of just £10. Instead, they bludgeoned him to death. The

murderers were caught within 36 hours, thanks to Evans leaving his raincoat at the scene with a medallion in the pocket bearing his name.

At 8am on 13 August 1964, 24-year-old Evans, and 21-year-old Allen were hanged at separate prisons. It would turn out that they were the last to be hanged in Britain.

Just two months later, a new Labour government came to power and MP Sydney Silverman, who had dedicated more than 20 years to abolishing the death penalty, finally got capital punishment suspended indefinitely.



ASHEN ACUPUNCTURE
Were the Iceman's tattoos a form of pain relief?

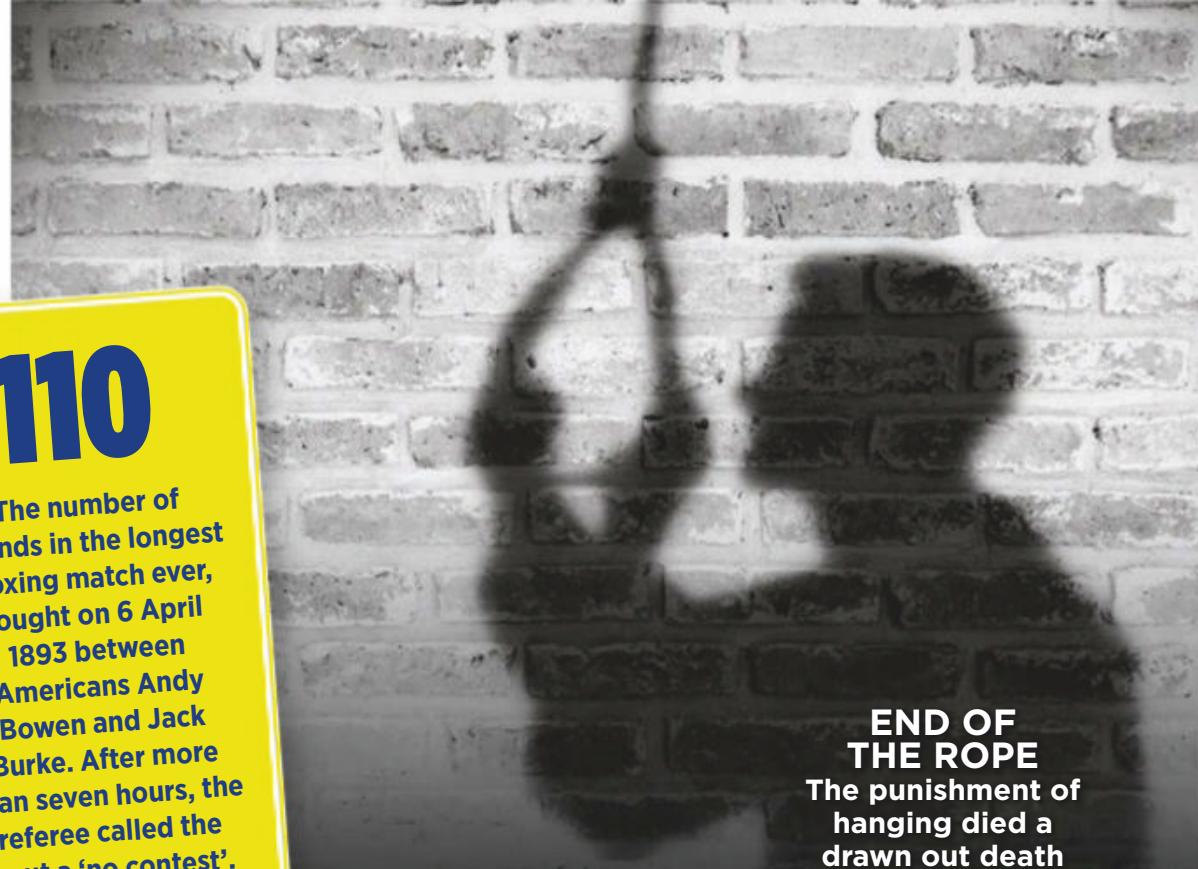
WHAT IS THE EARLIEST-KNOWN TATTOO?

Target Tattoos have surged in popularity in recent years, but it's hardly a new fad. Thanks to the discovery of prehistoric tools in France, Portugal and around Scandinavia, we have an inkling that inking was done 12,000 years ago – but for the earliest-known tattoo, we obviously need a well-preserved body.

Enter Ötzi the Iceman, the 5,200-year-old natural mummy found in 1991 in the ice of the Alps on the Italian-Austrian border. He has a total of 61 tattoos, made up of dots, lines and crosses around

his body. They were created by cutting deep into the skin and rubbing ash or soot into the wound, but they weren't for decoration. Due to their placement on Ötzi's joints and legs, he may have believed the tattoos had powers of healing or pain relief.

Now, there was a chance of an older tattoo on a Chinchorro mummy in Chile as he had a line of dots on his upper lip – much like a pencil moustache. But while there are certainly older Chinchorro mummies than Ötzi, this particular one was found to be a few centuries younger, so, for now, Ötzi seems to be responsible for the millennia-old fad of tattoos.



END OF THE ROPE
The punishment of hanging died a drawn out death

HOW DID BRITONS PROTEST AGAINST THE SLAVE TRADE?



In the late 18th century, a number of factors brought the hope of abolition to the fore, including a drop in the Atlantic slave trade's economic importance – intensified by US independence – and a somewhat delayed realisation of the immorality of slavery.

While abolitionists like William Wilberforce struggled to get a bill through parliament, the issue increasingly became a matter of public opinion. The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade formed in 1787 and inspired other groups around Britain. They organised hundreds of petitions and spread anti-slavery information and imagery, such as the famous diagram of the *Brookes* ship packed with

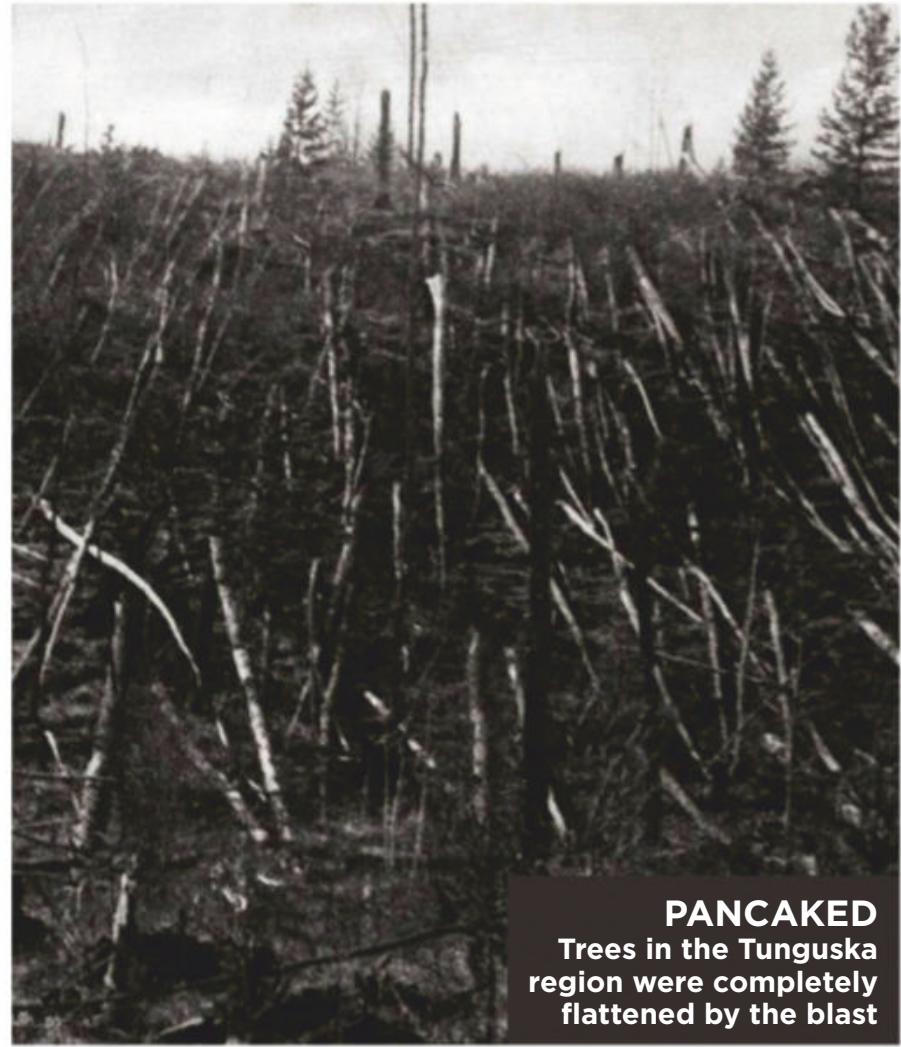
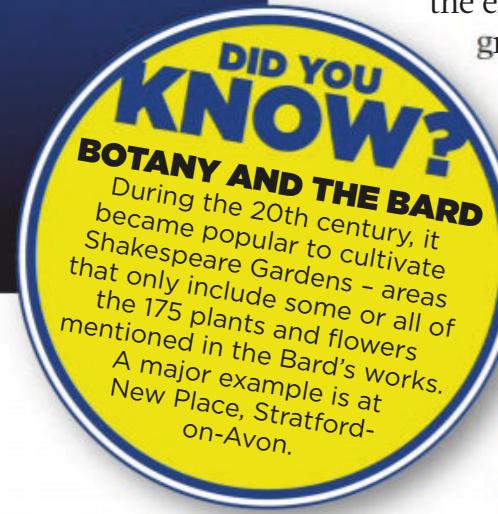
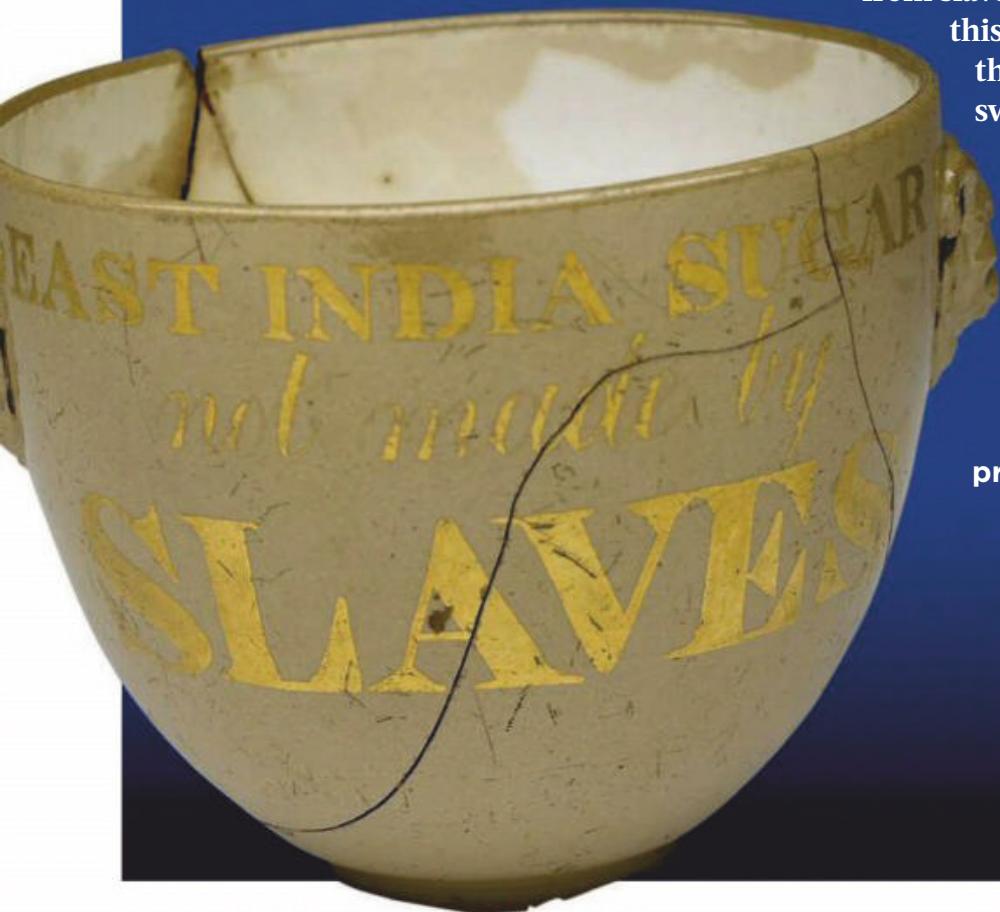
slaves, and the logo designed by potter Josiah Wedgwood of a kneeling slave and the words, "Am I not a man and a brother?"

The ignorance-is-bliss attitude towards slavery was further shattered by books from former slaves, notably Olaudah Equiano, but being horrified wasn't enough. They had to hit the trade where it hurt: the profits.

In 1791, thousands of pamphlets called for a boycott of sugar produced by slaves. Sales dropped by between a third and a half as some 300,000 consumers refused to use slave-grown sugar, while purchases of sugar from India increased tenfold. This led to a surge in sugar bowl sales as new ones were designed with words assuring buyers that the contents didn't come

from slave labour. While this would have made the tea taste a little sweeter, it would still be a long battle to end the Atlantic slave trade.

FAIRER TRADE
Ethical disclaimers adorned bowls containing sugar produced by free men



PANCAKED
Trees in the Tunguska region were completely flattened by the blast

What caused the 'Tunguska event'?



Shortly after 7am on 30 June 1908, an earth-shaking explosion ripped through central Siberia, Russia. A force 1,000 times that of the Hiroshima bomb flattened 500,000 acres, charred 80 million trees and shook the nearest town, 35 miles away.

No one knew what had caused the blast – the effects of which could be felt as far as Britain – and the inaccessibility of the area meant there would be no investigation until the late 1920s. What they didn't find was an impact crater, so the explosion had happened several miles above the ground. Several theories have been posited: a collision of matter and antimatter, a black hole hitting Earth, a form of nuclear blast, and, of course, aliens. Minuscule fragments of meteorite have been found, however, and so a large asteroid or comet remains the most likely cause.



MORE Q&A ONLINE
Visit www.historyextra.com for more astounding history mysteries.

How long did the Pinkertons operate?



The Pinkertons were the scourge of Wild West outlaws, pursuing Jesse James, the train-robbing Reno Gang, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Founded in 1850, the Pinkerton National Detective Agency actually got so big that by the late 19th century – when it had 2,000 active agents and 30,000 in reserve – it was larger than the US standing army.

The organisation still exists. True, its reputation would be damaged by its involvement in violent labour disputes and the FBI took over much of its

criminal detection work, but the Pinkertons still operate as a private security agency.

EYES WIDE OPEN
The Pinkertons never slept, allegedly



NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS



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BBC

DISCOVER
HISTORY

FROM THE MAKERS OF BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE

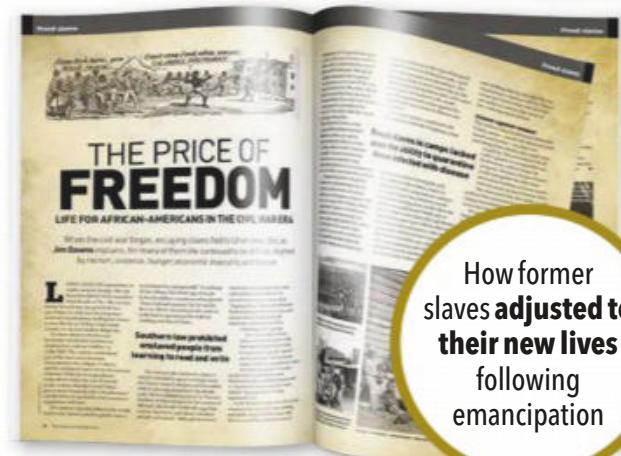
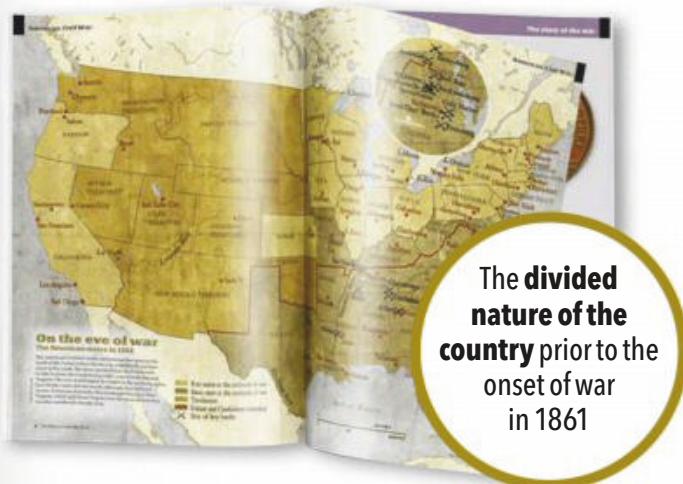
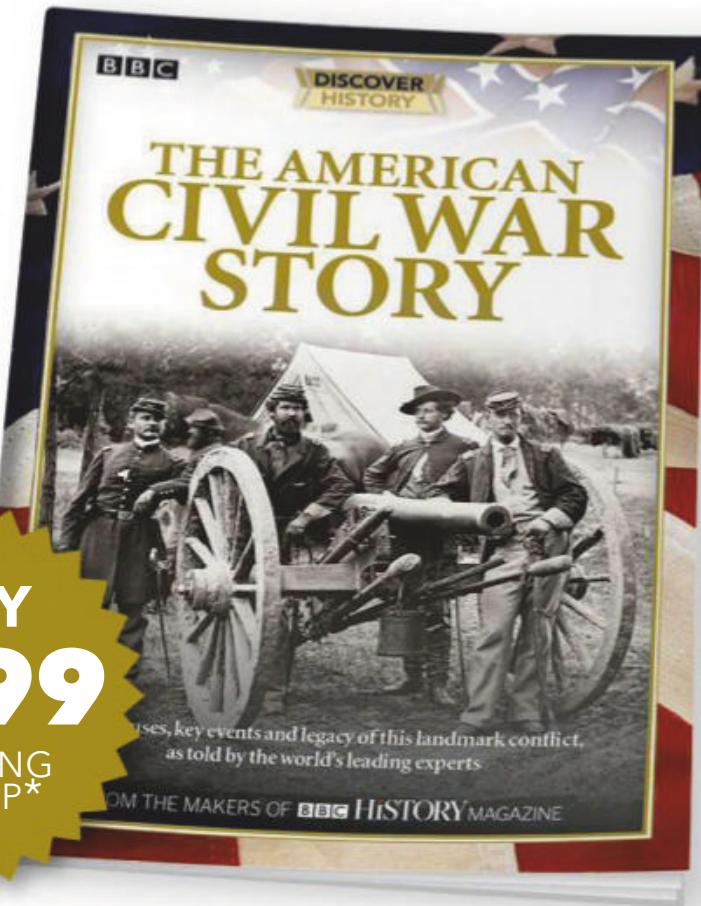
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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks



EXHIBITION

The Art of Innovation: From Enlightenment to Dark Matter

The Science Museum, London, until 26 January 2020,
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/art-innovation-enlightenment-dark-matter

Although it may not seem an obvious relationship, over the past 250 years art and science have often gone hand-in-hand. Imagination is a key ingredient for both artists and scientists, and many of the world's greatest artistic minds have been inspired by science. This exhibition explores the works of artists such as John Constable and Umberto Boccioni, pairing their works with objects of scientific discovery. It will also look at scientific progress and social change through works of art that were being created at the time. The exhibition accompanies the 20-part BBC Radio 4 series *The Art of Innovation*, available on BBC Sounds at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07lx10v

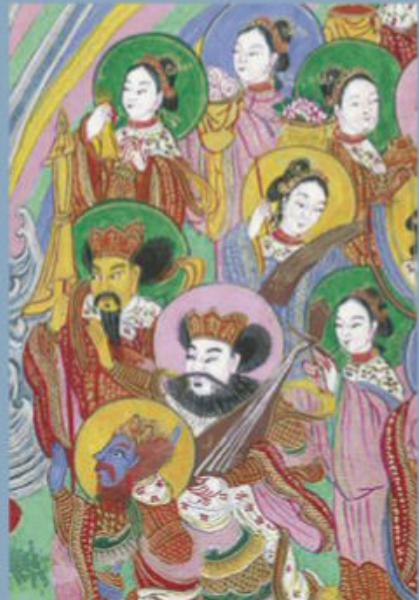


ABOVE: Silk skirt and blouse from 1862-63, dyed with Perkin's Mauve Aniline Dye

RIGHT: Model of the Firefly Class locomotive, used on the Great Western Line, 1838

WHAT'S ON

Buddhism at the British Library p84



TV & RADIO

Our pick of this month's history programmes... p86



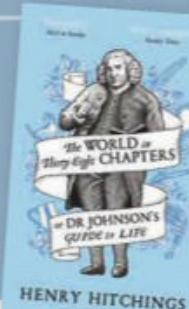
BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Titanic Belfast p88



BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at the best new releases... p90



**RE-OPENING**

Auckland Castle

County Durham, from 2 November
www.aucklandproject.org

Auckland Castle, which boasts one of the largest private chapels in Europe (*pictured*) will be reopening to the public following a three-year restoration project. The 12th-century former palace was once home to the Bishops of Durham – some of the most powerful men in Norman England. As well as their role within the Church, the Bishops of Durham also governed much of northeast England, regularly renovating the premises to show off their wealth and power.

The state rooms have been restored to their Georgian Gothic style, while the bishops' private apartments are being opened to the public for the first time.





BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD X2



EXHIBITION

Buddhism

British Library, 25 October 2019 to 23 February 2020,
www.bl.uk/events/buddhism

This month, the fascinating history of Buddhism will be explored in this, the largest exhibition of its kind ever held at the British Library. Illuminated manuscripts as well as rare artefacts from more than 20 countries will be brought together to explore the life of Buddha and explore what has inspired Buddhist practice since its beginnings in 6th-century India.

FREE
ENTRY



Discover the fashions of the past at Birmingham Museum

EXHIBITION

Dressed to the Nines

Birmingham Museum, 7 December

- 4 September 2020

www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag/whats-on/dressed-to-the-nines

Going to a special occasion, whether to a Victorian ball or a 1970s disco, has always given people an excuse to dress up. This exhibition, dedicated to occasionwear, will explore how fashion has changed from the 1850s through to the present day.



FILM

Midway

Showing in UK and US cinemas from 8 November

The 1942 Battle of Midway, six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, was the naval engagement that effectively ended the threat of a further Japanese invasion in the Pacific. This new film, starring Patrick Wilson, Ed Skrein (above left) and Luke Evans (above right), will focus on the stories of the real US sailors and aviators who fought in the battle. Mandy Moore and Dennis Quaid also star.

TO BUY

Great Shakespearean Deaths Card Game

Royal Shakespeare Company, £11.99, bit.ly/2Vjg0iO

Did you know that Shakespeare's plays feature 74 deaths? Some of these are incredibly inventive – from getting mauled by a bear to being baked into a pie. This gruesome trump card game – with illustrations from children's illustrator and writer Chris Riddell – lets players battle it out to decide who had the best (or worst) death.



EXHIBITION

FREE
ENTRY

Chinese Oracle Bones

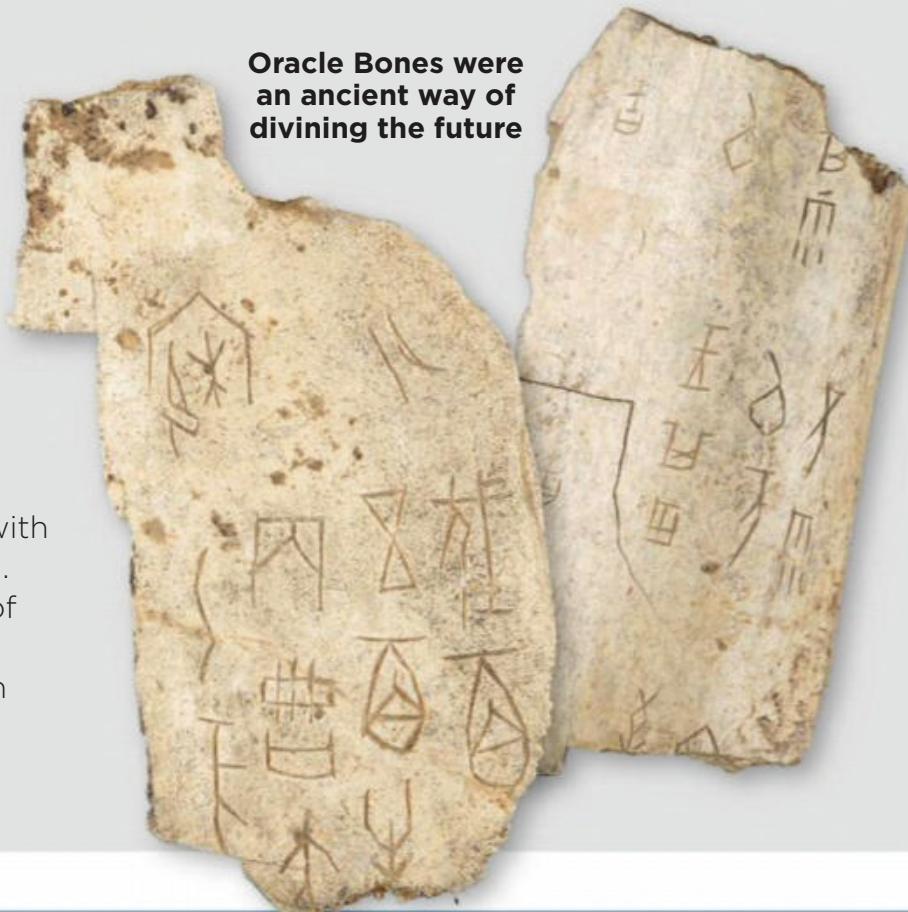
National Museum of Scotland,

Until 29 March 2020

www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events

In ancient China, divination was used to predict the outcome of a war or to forecast a bad harvest, using oracle bones often made of turtle shell or ox bone – inscribed with the earliest form of Chinese writing. This month, the National Museum of Scotland, which boasts the second largest collection of oracle bones in the world outside of China will be displaying a selection of these ancient treasures.

Oracle Bones were an ancient way of divining the future



► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

► George IV: Art & Spectacle – Admire the monarch's impressive collection of paintings, furniture and works from some of the greatest artists of the time.

Buckingham Palace, until 3 May 2020, bit.ly/2IzyoII

► Play Well – Tracing the history of play from the 1800s through to today.

The Wellcome Collection, London, until 8 March 2020, bit.ly/2p1iat

Which Shakespearean death do you think deserves the 'most gruesome' crown?

TV AND RADIO

The hottest documentaries, podcasts and period dramas



Eleanor Tomlinson and Rafe Spall lead the cast in this Edwardian iteration of the sci-fi classic

ALIEN INTRUDERS

The War Of The Worlds

BBC One, scheduled for November

Even now, more than 120 years after HG Wells' *The War Of The Worlds* was first serialised, the idea of tripods of Martian design on the move across the home counties is both thrilling and terrifying. Sent "across the gulf of space" by "intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic", these are the fighting machines of an invasion force.

It's a novel that, in adaptation, has often been updated, a testament to the power of Wells' writing. Yet arguably something is always lost in this process: the creeping fear that comes from the idea that even the British Empire at its mighty zenith might be hopelessly outgunned. More subtly, the underlying themes of the story – in particular, alien

invasion as a metaphor for colonialism – make more sense when the story is told as a period yarn.

Which, by setting the action in the Edwardian era, is precisely what a lavish new BBC adaptation by Peter Harness (*Doctor Who*, *Wallander*) does. Eleanor Tomlinson, Rafe Spall, Robert Carlyle and Rupert Graves head a starry cast.



Olivia Colman takes the throne as Elizabeth II in series three

ROYAL SAGA The Crown

Netflix, streaming from Sunday 17 November

There's change in the air as Peter Morgan's drama charting the reign of Elizabeth II returns for a third series. Events pick up in 1964, the year of Harold Wilson's first administration and when the decade was starting to swing, with Academy Award winner Olivia Colman succeeding Claire Foy as the Queen.

This time around, expect a focus on the disintegrating marriage of Princess Margaret (Helena Bonham Carter) and Lord Snowdon (Ben Daniels). Elsewhere, Tobias Menzies has talked about an episode in which Philip, ever dreaming of adventures that his place in life make impossible, is transfixed by the Apollo 11 mission.

LAUGH AND LEARN

You're Dead To Me

BBC Radio 4 podcast, available now

Having done so much to make the past accessible to kids, *Horrible Histories*' historical consultant is on a mission to get their elders into history too. His new podcast has a simple format – Jenner is joined by a historian and a comedian to talk about a period or historical figure. It's hugely entertaining, as you might expect when the likes of Sara Pascoe, Richard Herring, Michael Scott, Suzannah Lipscomb and Helen Castor are involved.

REVOLTING NATIVES

Britannia

Sky Atlantic, scheduled for November

It's two years since General Aulus Plautius (David Morrissey) first gained a foothold in the British Isles. A process of Romanisation has begun, much to the chagrin of many of the natives.

Co-created by the acclaimed playwright Jez Butterworth, the second series of the drama that mixes actual history with mystical fantasy promises to be just as entertaining – and visceral – as last time around. A strong cast also includes Mackenzie Crook, virtually unrecognisable as the druid Veran.



Aulus Plautius (David Morrissey) continues to make mischief in Roman Britain

PAGE TURNERS

The Novels That Shaped Our World

BBC Two, scheduled for November

Over the past 300 years, since the publication of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, the novel has been an agent for social change. So argues a new series that looks at novels from three perspectives: empire and slavery, women's voices and working class experiences. The series is the centrepiece of a wider literary season across BBC networks, and where November highlights include *Kes: A Boy's Life* (BBC Four), in which Greg Davies explores the story behind Barry Hines' classic novel *A Kestrel for a Knave*.



Robinson Crusoe is considered in episode one, on race and the British Empire



Kristin Scott Thomas (*The English Patient*) is one of four film stars taking part

FAMILY HISTORY

My Grandparents' War

Channel 4, scheduled for November

Marking the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, four of Britain's most famous film actors retrace the lives of their grandparents between 1939-45. At the centre of the series is the recurring question of how the conflict shaped both their forebears, and Britain more generally. In their respective episodes, Mark Rylance, Kristin Scott Thomas, Helena Bonham Carter and Carey Mulligan visit historic locations ranging from Dunkirk to Asian prisoner of war camps.

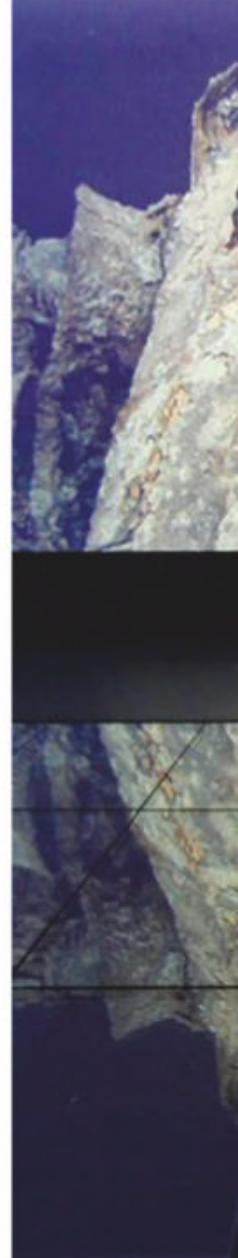
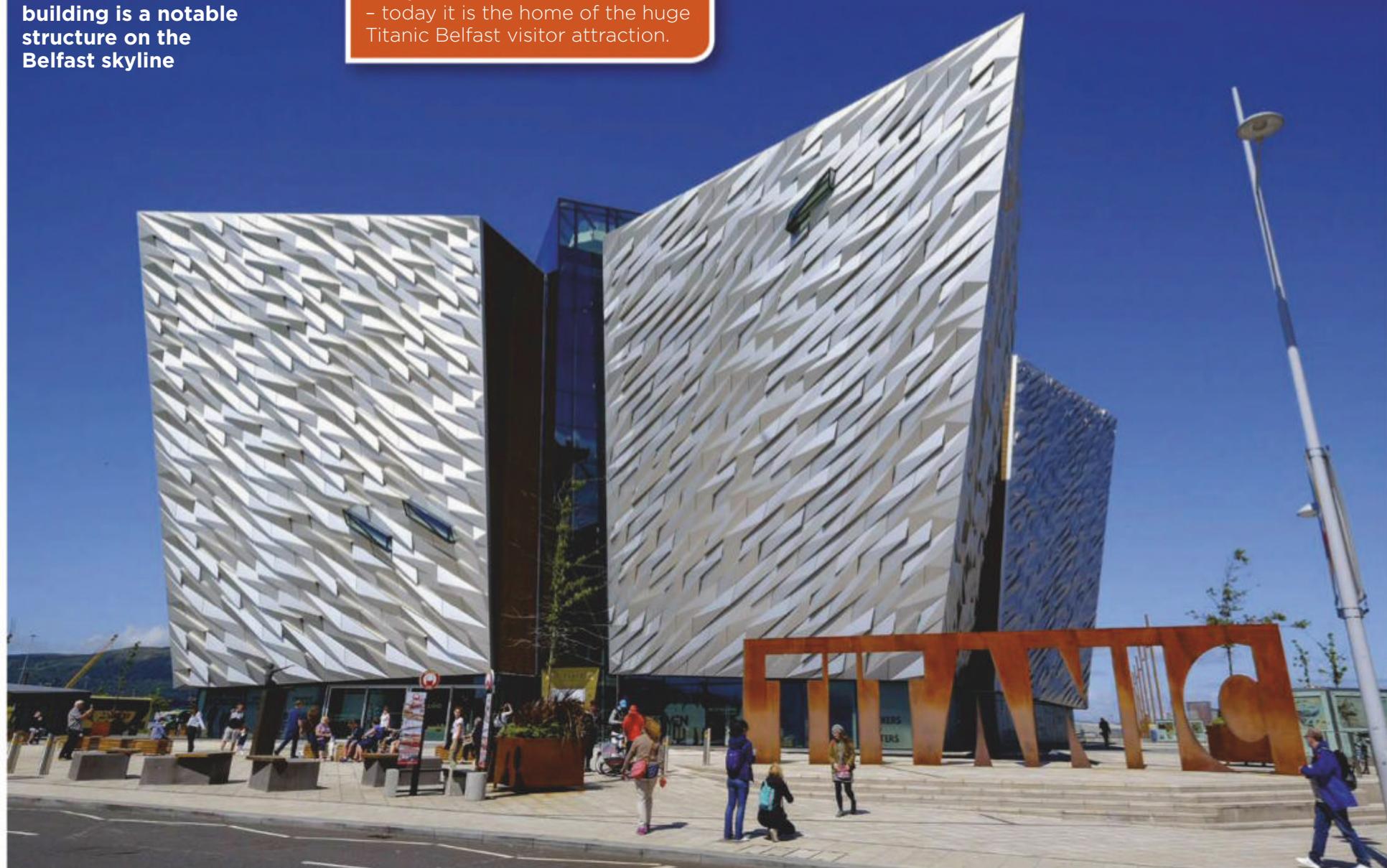
► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- Why was James VI and I so scared of witches? A new series, *Witch-Hunt* (BBC Radio Scotland & podcast, Thursday 31 October), reveals all.
- Could An Ancient Athenian Fix Britain? (Radio 4, November) imagines what a citizen of the Greek city state might make of our current situation.

The aluminium-clad building is a notable structure on the Belfast skyline

SHIPBUILDING LEGACY

More than 1,700 vessels were built at Harland & Wolff shipyards, many of them on Queen's Island – today it is the home of the huge Titanic Belfast visitor attraction.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES... TITANIC BELFAST Northern Ireland

On the site of the city's former shipyard, the ill-fated passenger liner comes to life

GETTING THERE

For those approaching Belfast from the M1 or M2, follow the signs for Belfast City Airport and then Titanic Quarter. Titanic Quarter has its own train station, which is a 15-minute walk from Titanic Belfast, and regular buses run from the city centre and airport.



OPENING TIMES AND PRICES

Titanic Belfast is open all year except 24-26 December. Opening times vary by month so check the website for the most up-to-date information. Tickets are £19 for adults; £8.50 for children. Admission includes entry to the SS Nomadic.

FIND OUT MORE

<https://titanicbelfast.com>

Belfast's shipyards have constructed hundreds of vessels since the 17th century, but one ship stands out from them all – RMS *Titanic*. Built between 1909 and 1911 at the Harland & Wolff shipyard on Queen's Island, the luxurious *Titanic* was, at the time, the largest passenger ocean liner the world had ever seen – the jewel of the White Star Line's fleet.

What happened next is a story that continues to horrify and fascinate in equal measure. On 14 April 1912, during its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, the ship struck an iceberg, sinking to the bottom of the Atlantic in less than three hours.

A misguided belief in the ship's inability to sink meant there were not enough lifeboats on board and more than 1,500 people are thought to have perished.

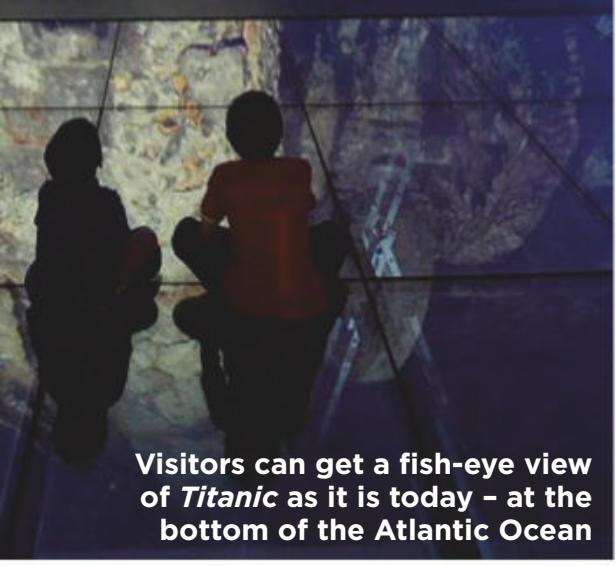
The *Titanic*'s legacy is still widely felt in Belfast – the city's labourers and engineers were the force behind this magnificent feat of shipbuilding, with around 3,000 men involved in building the vessel at Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyards.

Harland & Wolff itself dominated Belfast's shipbuilding industry in the second half of the 19th century and upgraded its facilities significantly to accommodate the construction of the three Atlantic liners: the

Titanic, the *Olympic* and, later, the *Britannic*. But, following a decline in shipbuilding, the huge 69-metre (228ft) high Arrol Gantry – erected over the slipways of the *Olympic* and the *Titanic* – was finally demolished in 1971.

In 2001, an idea to regenerate the derelict land around the old shipyard and rename it the Titanic Quarter was proposed, followed by plans for a huge *Titanic* museum, to be built in time for the 100th anniversary of the ship's maiden voyage in 2012. Construction for the attraction began in 2009 on the former Harland & Wolff dry docks and slipways.

The aluminium-clad six-storey building echoes the shape of the



Visitors can get a fish-eye view of *Titanic* as it is today – at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



MEMORIAL GARDEN

Four grass lawns stand as memorials to those who died on the *Titanic*, and alongside decking illustrates the proportion of victims and survivors from each passenger class and crew.



SHIPYARD RIDE

Descend into the dark depths of the *Titanic*'s construction and watch shipbuilders at work before passing through a scale replica of a section of the ship's rudder.



LAST LETTER

This letter, from passenger Esther Hart, was written just eight hours before the ship sank. It is thought to be the last letter written on board the *Titanic*.



SS NOMADIC

The only surviving White Star Line vessel, *Nomadic*, has been restored to her 1911 glory and can be boarded by visitors.



PLAN OF THE SHIP

This 33-foot-wide plan was created for the subsequent inquiry into the disaster. The detailed layout shows how hard it was for third class passengers to reach the Boat Deck in an emergency.

“*Titanic* was the jewel of the White Star Line’s fleet”

Titanic's bow and stands exactly the same height as the ship from keel to boat deck – 90 feet. Inside the 14,000 square-metre space, interactive galleries transport visitors back to Belfast's shipbuilding heyday, complete with the sounds of workers hammering. A trip by lift to the top of the building gives a sense of how high these men were working – without safety harnesses.

As well as learning about the lives of those who perished on board the *Titanic*, the museum tells the stories of those who built the ship, while an exciting ride takes visitors through a recreation of the former shipyard.

Nine interpretive exhibitions follow the *Titanic*'s story from its initial planning stages and launch

day, through to its sinking and the myths and legends that still surround it. One gallery offers a fish-eye view of the *Titanic* as it is now, 3,700 metres below the surface of the Atlantic. Artefacts from the ship itself are also on display, including letters written by passengers, as well as the original 19th-century gates to the Harland & Wolff shipyard.

Outside, visitors can see the restored slipways and dry docks where all three Atlantic liners were constructed, as well as the original Harland & Wolff offices. The 16-tonne metal sign at the front of the building weighs the same as the ship's main anchor, while a life size plan of the *Titanic*'s Promenade Deck, inlaid in white stone, allows

visitors to appreciate the huge size of the liner.

SS Nomadic – the tender that transported passengers and mail to both the *Titanic* and the *Olympic* – sits in a dry dock nearby, and is the only vessel from the White Star fleet still in existence today. A visit on board offers a glimpse of what the *Titanic*'s passengers might have experienced before they boarded the mighty ship. Continuing the time travel experience, a bar – Hickson's Point – has recently been created at Titanic Belfast to perfectly replicate a Belfast pub in the early 1900s.

The award-winning attraction also offers guided walking tours and regular events and exhibitions, including afternoon tea in the *Titanic* suite. ☺

WHY NOT VISIT...

Other historical sites found across Northern Ireland

ULSTER MUSEUM

The largest museum in Northern Ireland features exhibits from all over the globe – from dinosaurs to Ancient Egyptian mummies. [www.nmni.com/our museums/ulster museum](http://www.nmni.com/our-museums/ulster-museum)

CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

The only remaining Victorian prison in Northern Ireland held suffragettes and was where 17 men were executed. www.crumlinroadgaol.com

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

These basalt columns were formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago, although legend says they were built by a giant as a bridge to Scotland. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants causeway](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway)

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

Beowulf

Janina Ramirez



A Ladybird Expert Book

“It explores the world from which *Beowulf* originates – from the historical context to understanding Old English”

**BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

Beowulf

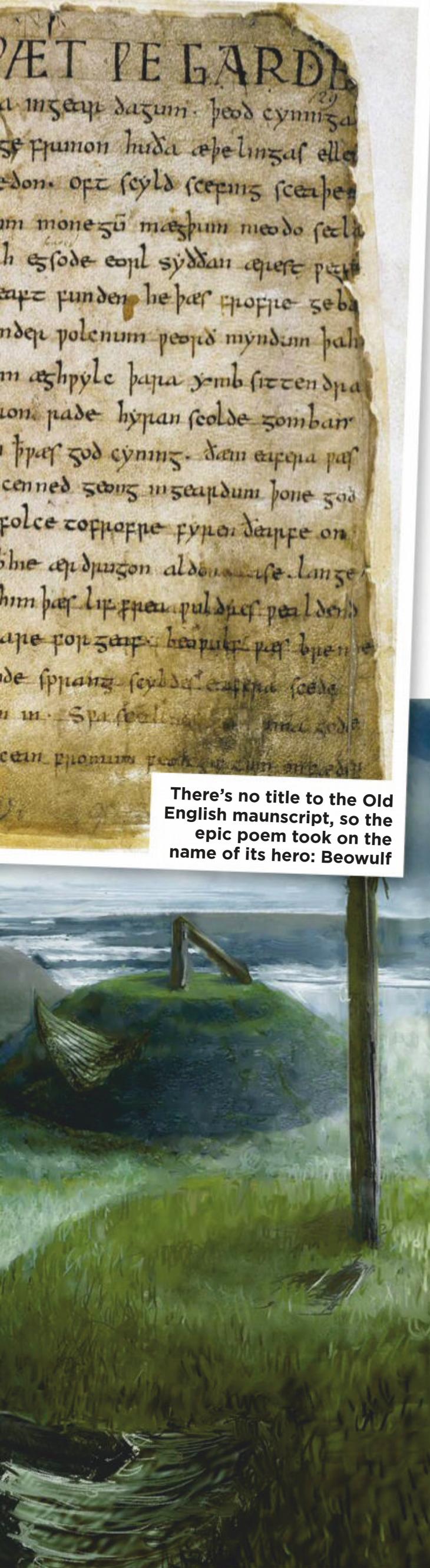
By Janina Ramirez

Michael Joseph, £8.99, hardback,
56 pages

How much do you know about the 10th-century tale of Beowulf, beyond images of the monstrous, troll-like Grendel and a timber mead hall aglow with flickering firelight? Historian and television presenter Janina Ramirez here explores the poem and the world from which it originates – from the historical context to a guide to understanding Old English, the language in which it was written. Cramming a lot into its slender page count, and with evocative illustrations on each spread, this is a surprisingly detailed look at a hugely influential text.

The tale spans modern Denmark, but Beowulf himself is said to hail from Geats (now part of Sweden)





MEET THE AUTHOR

Janina Ramirez explains that though it can't be considered a truly reliable text, *Beowulf* offers an almost unique insight into early medieval England, supported by archaeological evidence

For people who might not be familiar with *Beowulf*, what is the story and why is it important?

Beowulf is England's first epic, even though the events it describes are set in sixth-century AD Denmark. But it's important to remember that the culture, language and social structure of England in the early medieval period was influenced directly by the Germanic regions from which the Angles, Saxons and Jutes migrated after the collapse of the Roman Empire.

What the poem describes would have been very similar to life in an early medieval hall, and the military society it reveals has been supported by finds such as the Sutton Hoo ship burial and Staffordshire Hoard. It may seem distant, unfamiliar and fantastical, but the more we learn about life in early medieval England, the closer *Beowulf* seems to resonate with it. It's also written in Old English, which was the mother-tongue of modern English, so it lets you into a world where you are surrounded by the sounds, sights and smells of our distant past.

What's your take on when, and where, *Beowulf* was composed?

We take for granted the power of oral tradition in storytelling. Stories have always been passed down through telling and retelling, for the purposes of entertainment, moral enrichment and historical archiving. *Beowulf* definitely began life as a story spread, not by being written down, but by being told and retold. We know that it records some facts about the time and place in which it began, because there are archaeological finds that tell us some of the characters recorded in the poem existed. So it was composed in some form in sixth-century Denmark. But it has changed as it crossed over the North Sea, being translated into Old English and taking on Christian echoes. Finally it was written down some 400

years later by a curious monk, who was part of a great conservation exercise at the turn of the first millennium. If the monk who scribed the Nowell Codex [the manuscript in which *Beowulf* was recorded] had not done so, then this strange poem of dragons, treasure and heroes would have been lost to time.

What can this text tell us about Britain's history that no other source can?

There are virtually no written sources surviving from the period between the retreat of Roman control of Britain in AD 410 and the rise of Christianity in the 700s. Those that do survive, such as the chronicles of the British monk

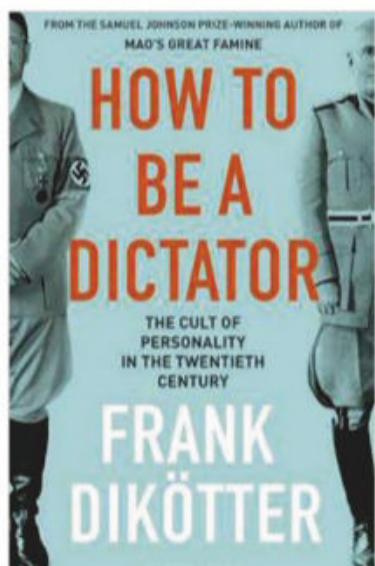
Gildas, are highly biased and often unreliable. Of course, *Beowulf* is not a reliable historical text in the truest sense of the word. But it does shine an unparalleled light on the Germanic military culture that became dominant during this period. All the other evidence we uncover, from cemeteries to buildings, from buckles to weapons, reinforces the world that *Beowulf* presents. It was once thought to be some sort of Tolkiensque fantasy, but the more we find, the more we discover it is an essential written source to help shed light on what had been known as 'the Dark Ages'.



"*Beowulf* was once thought to be a sort of Tolkiensque fantasy"

How would you like your new book to change how people view *Beowulf*?

If we want to know about our medieval history we have to draw on all the sources we have available to us. This means learning the languages that were used at the time, exploring the archaeology, art and architecture, and looking to all sorts of written sources, including poetry. I hope my book will also show what a vibrant, exciting and rich time the early medieval period was. No more use of this term 'Dark Age'. *Beowulf* shows us a world that shimmered with gold.

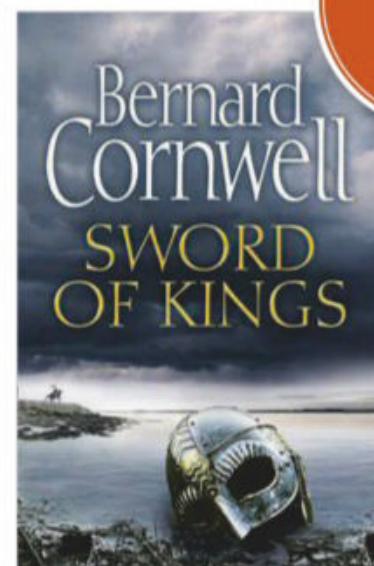


How to Be a Dictator

By Frank Dikötter

Bloomsbury, £25, hardback,
304 pages

The pages of the 20th century are filled with dictators – men who mixed power, fear, violence and charisma to hold entire nations within their grasp. This new book focuses on that final factor: the techniques that leaders such as Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini used to charm and control their populations. Ranging from Romania to Ethiopia, Korea to Haiti, this is a fascinating, sobering look at the ‘cult of personality’.



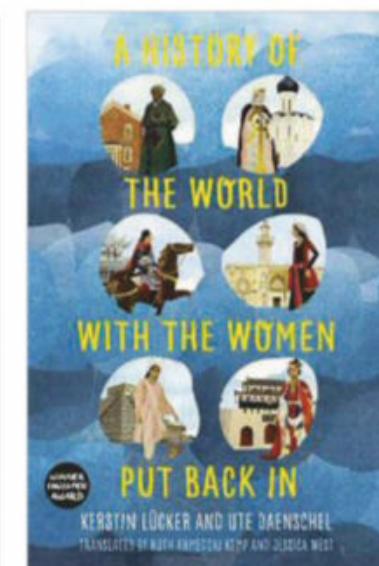
HISTORICAL
FICTION

Sword of Kings

By Bernard Cornwell

HarperCollins, £20, hardback,
400 pages

Such has been the success of the BBC/Netflix drama *The Last Kingdom* that the sequence of novels from which it's adapted, Bernard Cornwell's *The Saxon Stories*, has been renamed accordingly. Launched 15 years ago, the series has followed the fortunes of protagonist Uhtred through the shifting Saxon and Viking worlds of the ninth and tenth centuries; now, in this 12th instalment, he finds himself caught between two warring kings...

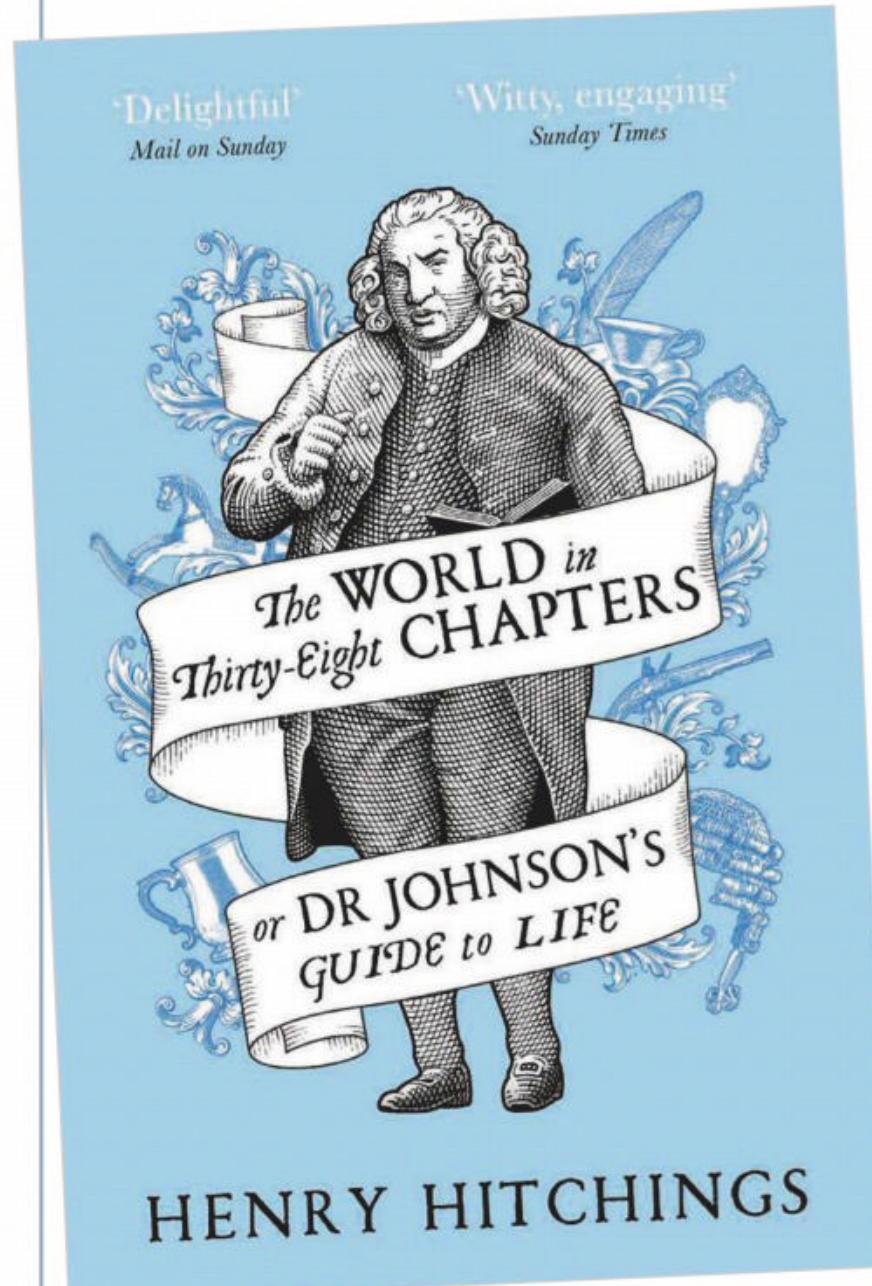


A History of the World with the Women Put Back In

By Kerstin Lücker and Ute Daenschel

The History Press, £20, paperback,
424 pages

As this book's authors note, attempts to erase women from history have often been all too successful. This bid to put them back in, newly translated into English and originally aimed at young people, is supported by sidebars for key dates along the way. From Boudicca to Eleanor of Aquitaine and Harriet Tubman, it's an excellent female-centric take on world history.

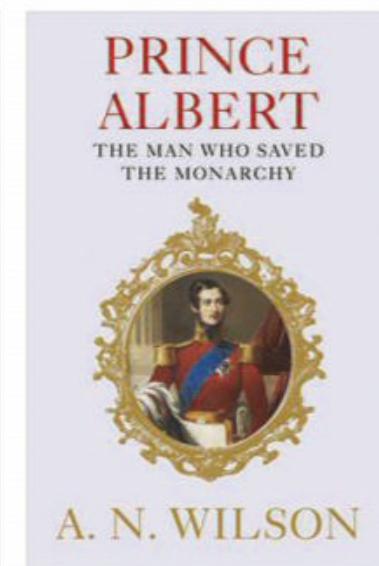


The World in Thirty-Eight Chapters, or Dr Johnson's Guide to Life

By Henry Hitchings

Picador, £9.99, paperback,
320 pages

Samuel Johnson was an 18th-century man of letters known for his witticisms (“Whoever thinks of going to bed before twelve o'clock is a scoundrel”) and whose writing spanned multiple forms: plays, poetry, social commentary. This lively, idiosyncratic biography – it's likely the only history book to describe something as ‘wack’ – tells the story of his life and works, but also considers what lessons his words and thoughts might have for us today, in the 21st century.



Prince Albert: The Man who Saved the Monarchy

By A.N. Wilson

Atlantic, £25, hardback, 448 pages

August marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Prince Albert, making this a perfect time to learn more about the love of Queen Victoria's life. Yet, AN Wilson argues, Albert was as important for his role in Britain's technological and constitutional development as he was for the Queen's emotional stability. Drawing on material from the Royal Archives at Windsor, this is an in-depth profile of a key British figure.

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



DAVID ANDRESS THE FRENCH REVOLUTION A PEASANTS' REVOLT

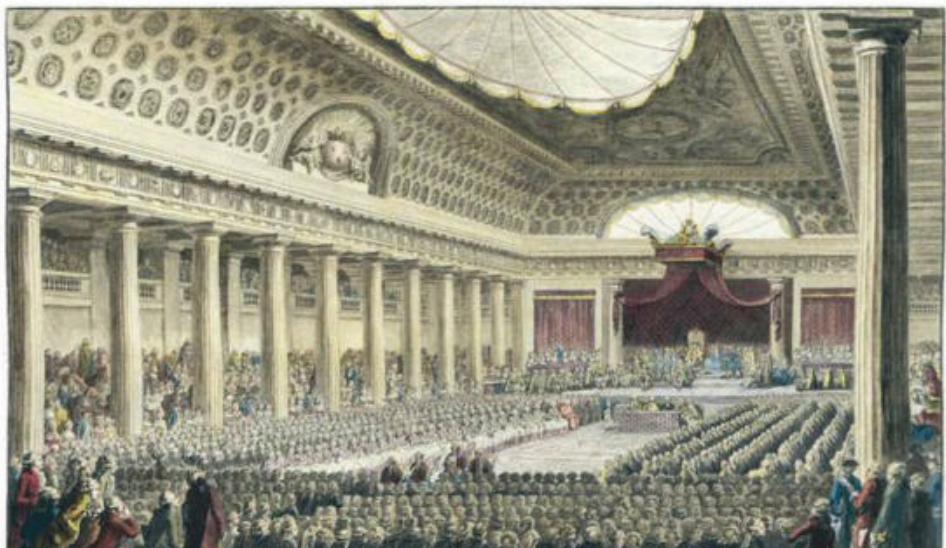
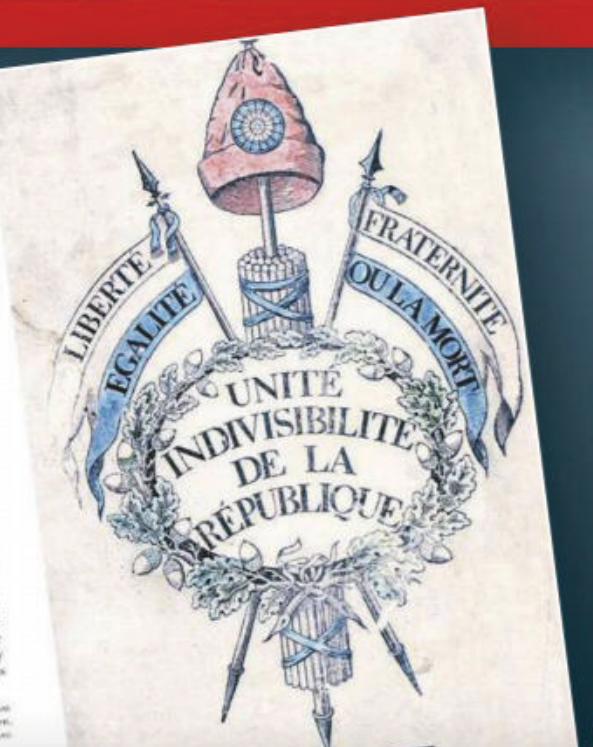
to be hindering an effort of national defence, as essentially a war emergency, then one thing which must be acknowledged about it, on the overall level, is that it worked. By the end of 1793, all those areas of the country that had fallen out of central control were, one way or another, back in the fold - or at least their resistance was suppressed to no more than nuisance level.

Thanks to the levée en masse, and to the huge emerging efforts of Representatives around the country, France was on the way to raising an army of 800,000 men, twice the size of any it had raised before, and managing - just barely, but extraordinarily nonetheless - to clothe and arm them and have them ready for battle. Republican ideology, which had slashed so many with its razor-sharp edges, was also proving to be a potent engine of individual commitment and self-sacrifice.

A blitzard of propaganda speeches, public displays, theatrical productions, and literally hundreds of thousands of pamphlets and newspapers swirled around the concepts of 1789, and found echo in their own sentiments in letters home. One Pierre Cahin wrote from the northern front that their war was the war of liberty against despotism. There can be no doubt that we shall be victorious. A nation that is just and free is invincible! Gabriel Bourguignon, from the Indre, wrote home that he 'would rather die a hundred times over than concede an inch to the enemy', and he and his comrades would defend their just cause 'to the very last drop of our blood'.

"Liberty, Equality, or Death!" was no empty slogan when troops brough themselves time and again at enemy lines in 1794, and achieved staggering breakthroughs. François-Xavier Jullien, a volunteer from a village in the eastern Jura, had written to his parents to have no regrets at his departure for the return bathed in glory, or you will have a son who is a worthy citizen of France who knows how to die for the defence of his

An example of republican iconography, drawing heavily on Jacobin imagery, produced by the Tonnelier firm, Paris, 1793. © Archives de la Révolution Française.



The French Revolution: A Peasant's Revolt

By David Andress

Head of Zeus, £18.99, hardback, 216 pages

This look at the 1789 French Revolution is that rarest of things: a beautifully presented book that matches visual elements – paintings, drawings, documents – with a strong historical argument. The overthrow of France's monarchy was spearheaded not by the intelligentsia, David Andress argues, but by the peasantry itself, who had to fight hard for their liberation. This may not be as picture-packed as other visual histories, but it's a striking tome nonetheless.

**"A rare thing,
matching visual
elements with a
strong historical
argument"**

implicitly to a radically different conception of the link between social status and the state. A few communities even dared articulate this more explicitly. Lignières-la-Doucelle in western Normandy asked that mobility in future become a reward granted 'only to those who have meritised it'.¹⁴ From Lautis, near Aix-en-Provence, came a denunciation of noble privilege as a condition robbing the nation of the benefits of emulation, since most could never aspire to reach its heights, and 'to thus deprive a state of the genius that might enlighten, instruct and defend it, is a crime'.¹⁵

The clergy, too, came in for some broadsides. The Catholic hierarchy was in many ways a microcosm of France, with many near-penniless priests serving isolated communities, while wealthy abbeys and convents dotted towns and countryside alike, and appointments as bishops were monopolised by the nobility. While the clergy as individuals were sworn to poverty, many of them visibly lived a life of affluence, offering very little by way of spiritual services in return. Such was the complex interlinking of church institutions with other forms of privilege that it was far from unknown for an abbey to own the right to tithe on parishes many miles distant, to rent out lands it owned in other communities, and to be the titular seigneur of yet other ashering in revenues on all sides. Saint-Vincent again led on their situation, forced to pay dues towards a hospital across the local river in Lure, which did not sit in any of their people, while they were barred from aid from the larger hospital in Cahors.

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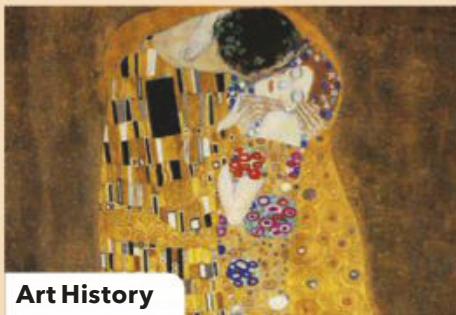
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SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

Robin Hood actor Richard Greene played the outlaw in Lincoln green for four years

ROBIN HOOD HIGHLIGHTS

I was interested in Duncan McVee's letter (October 2019) on film actors who have portrayed Robin Hood. Like Duncan, my personal favourite is Richard Greene in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* TV series (1955), but I am biased since Greene's mother was my grandmother's cousin. Greene was actually born in Devon, England, to actor parents and started his stage career in 1933 (aged 15), with a small part in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. His career was briefly interrupted during World War II, when he served in the 27th Lancers, as well as appearing in British propaganda films such as *Flying Fortress* and *Unpublished Story*.

Peter Gray,
Kent

HAUNTED HISTORY

Your recent 10 Horrifying Haunts feature (November 2019) made me think of a haunted location here, in the US.

There is a house on the Hudson River in Nyack, New York, which dates to the 1890s and has a long history of

supernatural activity. When the house was sold in the 1980s, the buyers soon found they could not cope with the daily disturbances of Revolutionary-era poltergeists and wanted to rescind the contract with the former owner, who had failed to disclose the house's haunted history.

The matter was eventually brought to the Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, which ruled that the home was officially haunted and the contract could be rescinded. At the time of writing, the house is up for sale again...

✉️ Stephanie Joori Suh,
California

BLETCHLEY HERO

I read with interest your feature on the women of Bletchley Park (July 2019). I was pleased to see a reference to my historical hero Tommy Flowers, the man who designed and built Colossus, the world's first programmable electronic computer. He is another person who helped win World War II and as such deserves his own feature.

✉️ Robert Jennings,
Kent

IMMEDIATE
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ISSUE 75 – DECEMBER 2019

BBC History Revealed is published by Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited under licence from BBC Studios who help fund new BBC programmes

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Basic annual subscription rates

UK £64.87 **Eire/Europe** £67.99

ROW £69.00

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ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 72 are:

R Fraser, Tain

D Rippon, Burton-on-Trent

T Veal, Falmouth

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *History of the World: Map by Map*, published by DK in hardback.

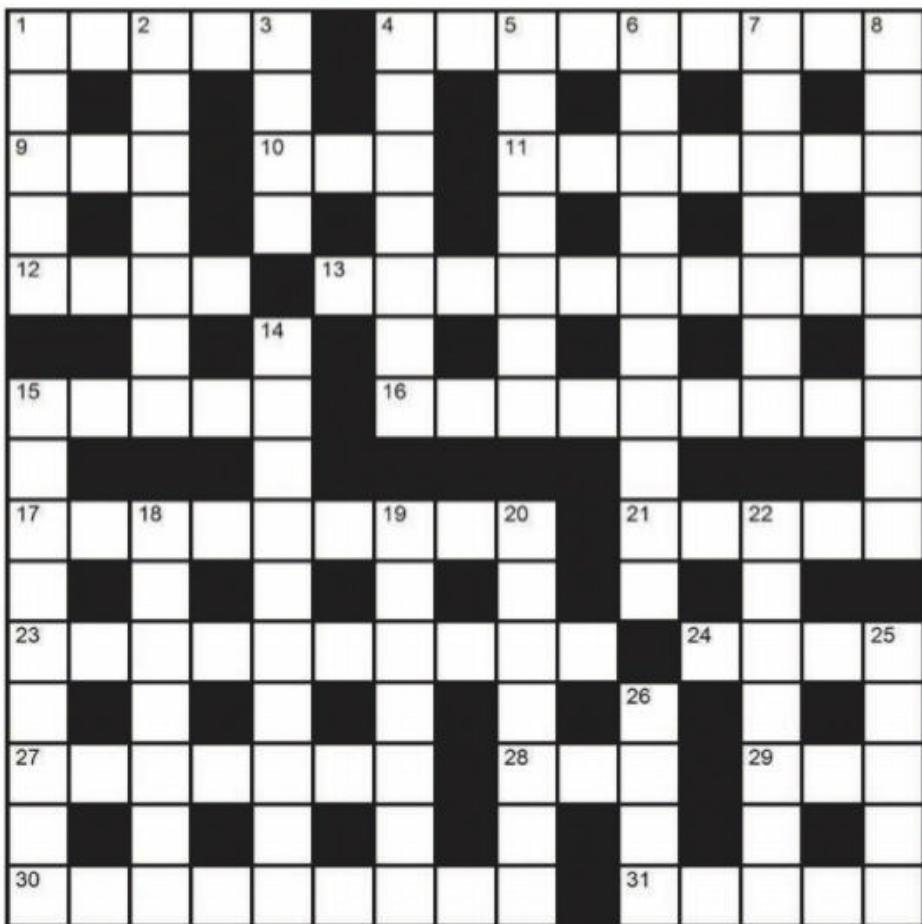


CHANCE TO WIN

CROSSWORD N° 75

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1** *The Way Of All ___*, Samuel Butler novel of 1903 (5)
- 4** Medieval throwing axe, most associated with the Franks (9)
- 9** Muhammad ___, name taken by boxer Cassius Clay (3)
- 10** Pol ___ (1925–98), Cambodian dictator (3)
- 11** American lawyer (1927–86), chief counsel to Senator Joseph McCarthy (3,4)
- 12** Hill of ___, ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland in County Meath (4)
- 13** “We will make no distinction between the ___ who committed these acts and those who harbour them” – US President George W Bush, 11 September 2001 (10)

- 15** Controversial 1996 film by David Cronenberg (5)
- 16** See 18 Down
- 17** River of Mesopotamia (9)
- 21** Emma ___ (1865–1947), Hungarian-born author of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (5)
- 23** Philosophy associated with Locke, Berkeley and Hume (10)
- 24** The European Organization for Nuclear Research, founded in 1954 (4)
- 27** Port city of Galicia, Spain, and site of an 1809 battle during the Peninsular War (1,6)
- 28** Nickname of US President Dwight D Eisenhower (3)
- 29** See 30 Across
- 30/29** Cow-pie-eating Wild West comic character, introduced in 1937 (9,3)

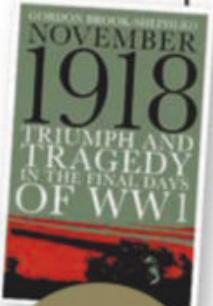
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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of **BBC History Revealed**) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy.

November 1918

by Gordon Brook-Shepherd



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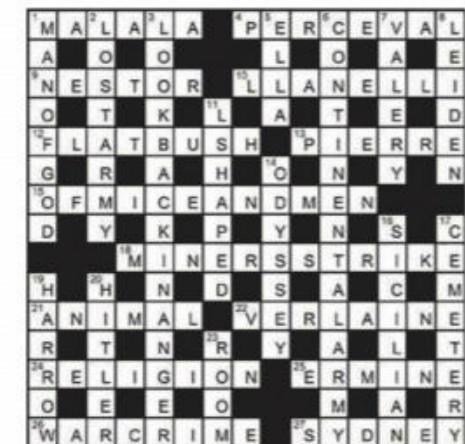
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Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, December 2019 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to december2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk by noon on **1 January 2020**.

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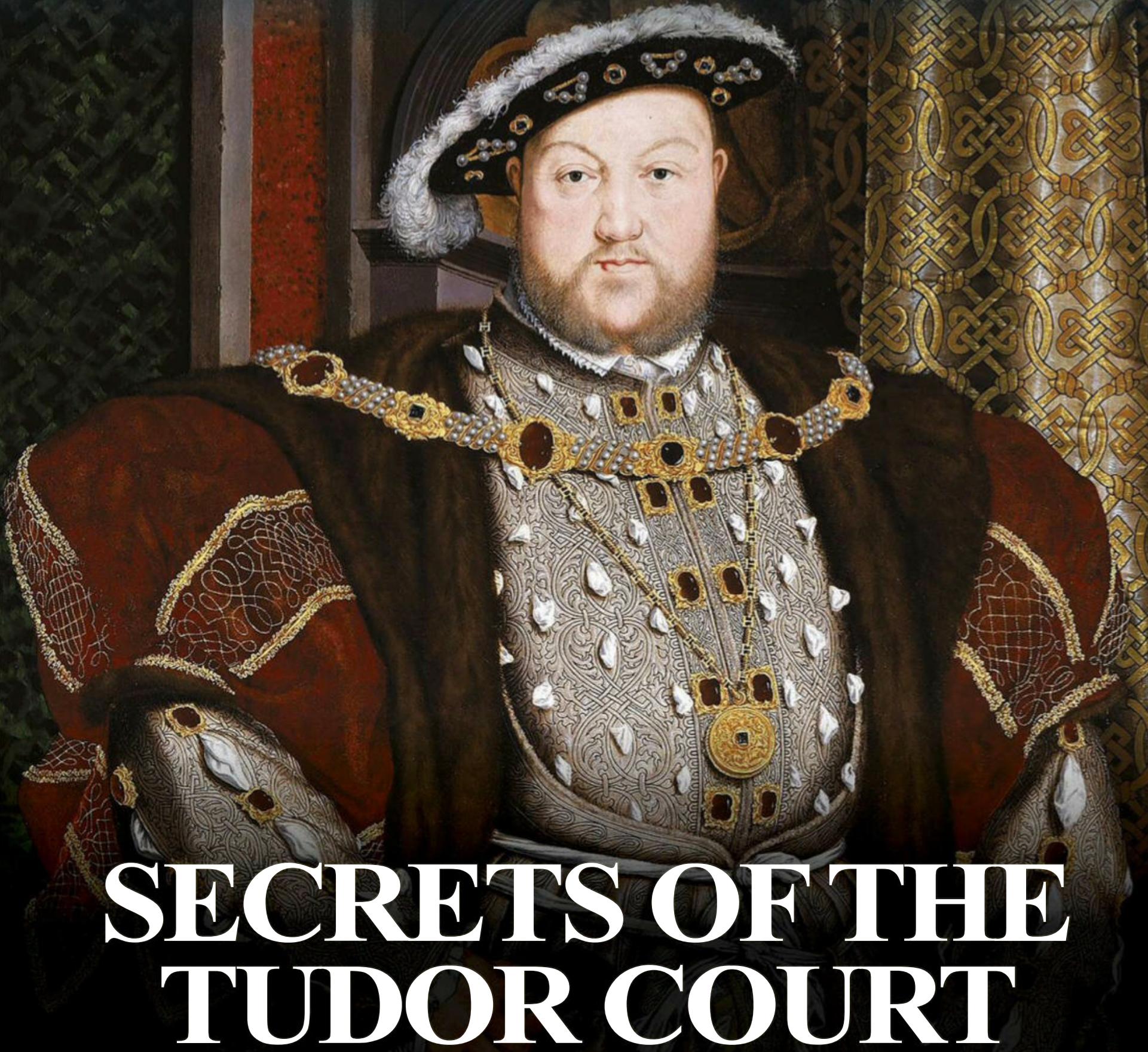
SOLUTION N° 73



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Moments from history, told through the BBC



JACKANORY, 1965

In the words of the nursery rhyme that gave the show its title: I'll tell you a story about Jackanory. The beloved BBC children's television series ran from 1965 to 1996 with the aim of inspiring a love of reading. Each 15-minute episode saw a well-known star read a classic story with the help of costumes and illustrations, looking straight down the camera as if speaking directly to each young viewer. Actors, comedians and personalities longed to get the call from Jackanory, but few could spin a yarn like Kenneth Williams (pictured here in 1978). The star of the saucy Carry On films appeared in 69 episodes – only Bernard Cribbins did more (111) – thanks to his range of voices and wonderfully expressive style.

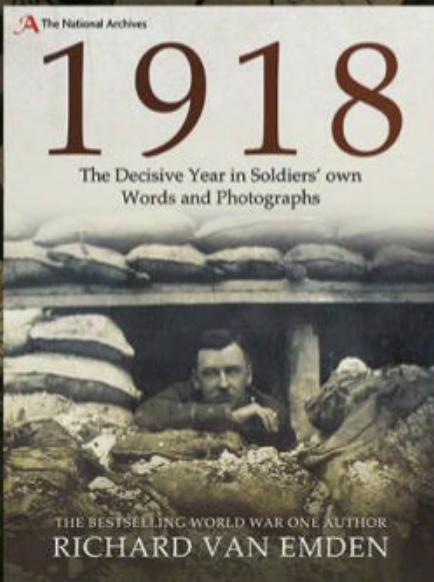
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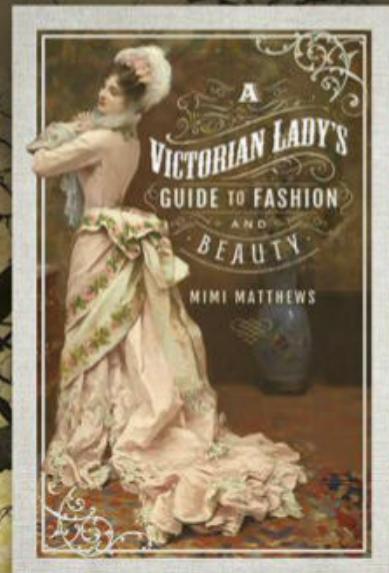
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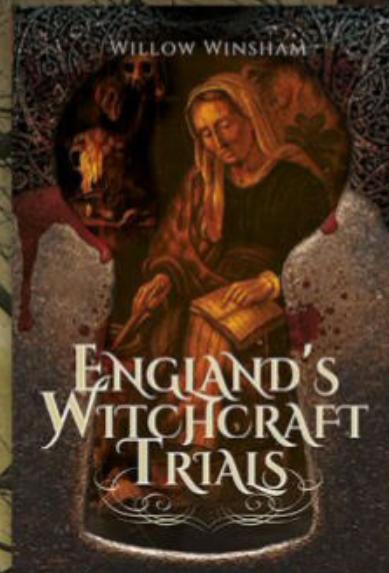
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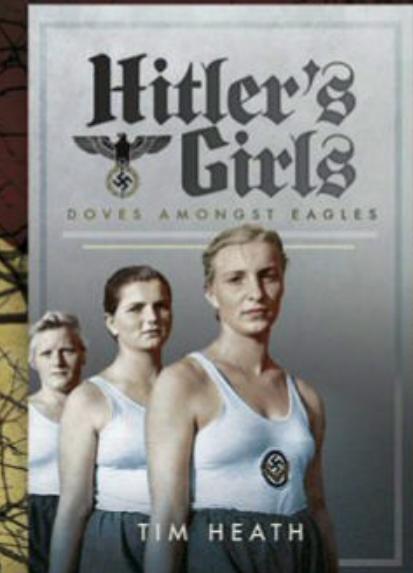
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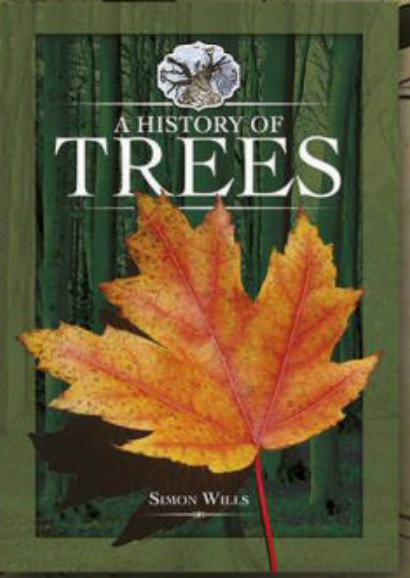
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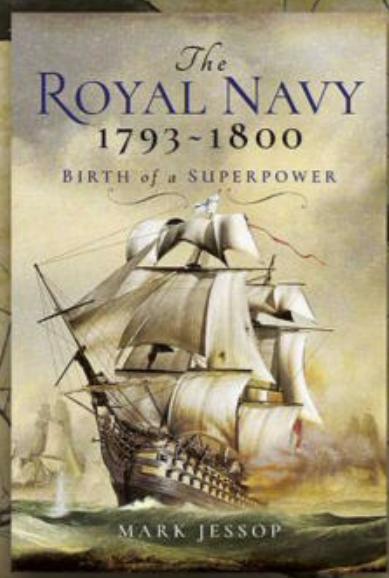
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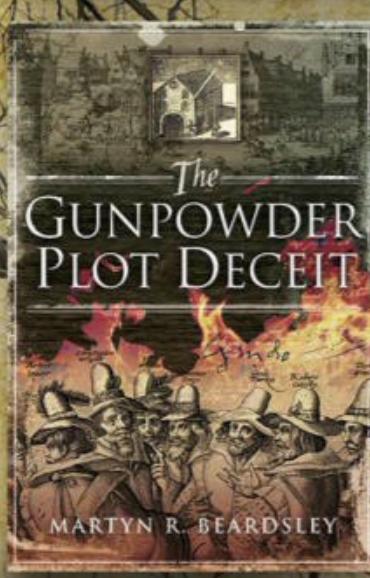
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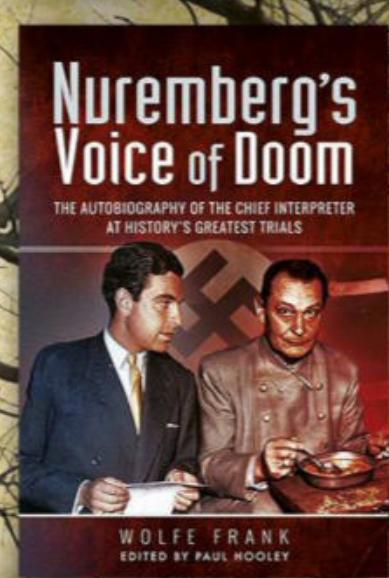
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